Football



INSIDE TODAY'S NEW-LOOK SECTION TWO



Woody Allen: has the mighty fallen?

Winners and losers in the check-out wars

THURSDAY 11 APRIL 1996



Where is the CJD epidemic?

CHARLES ARTHUR Science Correspondent

Official figures reveal that the number of possible cases of Crentzfeldt-Jakoh Disease (CJD) in Britain this year do not justify the worldwide panic over beef. The oew evidence emerged as British meat traders warned that their husinesses were days away from collapse, and European vets refused to lift their han.

The latest figures, obtained exclusively by the Independent. show that since the start of the year, 26 suspected cases of CJD

tional CJD Surveillance Unit in CJD. Panic was first triggered Edinhurgh, which checks any possible case of the disease nationwide. In the past five years, only half the cases referred to the unit have been confirmed as CJD - implying that this year's total will be about 50 cases. That is in line with 1994, the highest total on record, when 52 people died of CJD, and well before the latest panic, said Dr Roh Will, the unit's head, yesterday. Forty-

four people died in 1995. The new evidence should counter fears about a possible link between eating BSE-infected meat and developing last month when the Secretary of State for Health. Stephen Dorrell, announced in the Commons that the Surveillance Unit was studying 10 cases, in the past two years, of a new strain of the ase among young adults. Dr Will said yesterday that the evideoce so far did not support suggestions of an epidemic.

But the news may come too late to meat traders, who yesterday wrote to the Prime Minister, protesting that many of them faced imminent liquidation, and that "unless immediate action is taken, the [British] industry as a whole will plum-

met into irreversible decline". Thousands of jobs were at risk, they warned.

The International Meat Trade Association (IMTA) also accused the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) of seeming "not to understand, or not to care".

There was more bad news from Europe yesterday, as a meeting of senior European veterinary officers decided to retain the world export han imposed last month on British beef products - even for products such as gelatine and tallow, used in sweets, pills and candles. Scientists last week confirmed

that these posed no risk to tailed plans from the Agricul-humans. ture Minister, Douglas Hogg,

EU officials said it was clear that there was still a political need to maintain the ban, whatever the scientific reality.

There was a quite strong body of opinion that it is still too early to support making any changes to the ban," said a British Government spokesman, "It is still felt that the ban has not been in force long enough to reassure consumers. MAFF called the decision "bitterly disappointing" and vowed to cootinue fighting it.

Meanwhile, the European Commission is awaiting de-

for a programme of selective slaughter of animals and herds which may have come in con-

tact with BSE. Mr Hogg has until the end of the mooth to produce his proposals - the earliest date for consideration of removing the beef ban entirely. Last night, government officials accepted with reluctance that a swift end to the ban was politically impossible.

However, the IMTA insisted that swift action was necessary to protect livelihoods and husioesses. Its members have £35m

worth of stock which has been rendered unsaleable by the EU's ban, yet which is oevertheiess fit for human coosumption under British

guidelines. Sheila Gore, an independent statistical researcher for the Medical Research Council. said that the key to the CJD Unit's data would be what happened over the next 12 mooths. "Typically, if you are looking for an epidemic, you look to see how long it takes the number of cases to double." However, the low incidence of CJD - oormally ooe per million each year means that as few as four cases of the new strain this year could indicate, statistically, that there was an epidemic of CJD under way.

Dr Will said, "Until two or three weeks ago we had only had 14 referrals of suspected cases, which is what we would expect. Since the publicity, there have been another 12 referrals, hut it's easy to overinterpret that. In hetween, I had written to every neurologist in the country asking them to tell us about anything that looked like CJD. This can't be interpreted as suggesting an increase in the absolute oumbers of people

Labour to exploit rail chief's exit

and COLIN BROWN

Labour yesterday seized on a decision by Roger Salmon, the official in charge of the sale of Britain's train services, to step down early as evidence of mounting disarray in the rail privatisation programme.

Mr Salmon's announcement that L. is to leave in October without another job in sight, 13 months before his contract expublication next Monday of the prospectus for the £1.8bn flotation of Railtrack.

His resignation was hailed by Labour as evidence that the Government's privatisation plans were "falling apart". Clare Short. Labour's transport spokeswoman, said: "The rats are leaving the sinking ship. I am not surprised. I am even pleased. It is another symptom that the process of privatisation is falling apart."

Labour is threatening to de-Wednesday by forcing a vote in the Commons over the privatisation of British Rail.

There were suggestions in the City that Mr Salmon had not found it easy to deal with frictions with a succession of secretaries of state on the mechanics and timetable of the privatisation. One source said that while there had been no outright rows he might have stayed on longer if relations with the Government had been better.

Labour also believes that Mr Salmon was disheartened by the unpopularity of the job, and Ms Short claimed he was leaving before a Labour government implements its plans to abolish the franchise director's job. That threat will make it hard to recruit a senior successor.

Mr Salmon rejected suggestions of difficulties with the current Secretary of State for Transport and said "I get on extremely well with Sir George [Young] ... I cannot remember a single hard word hetween us in the nine months since he was appointed."

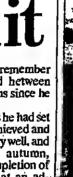
He said the targets he had set himself had been achieved and "the ship is sailing very well, and very fast". By the autumn, the sales would be at an adate for the long-term health of the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising to hand over to

disclosed in the prospectus.

Mr Salmon first told Sir George of his intention to leave last December. No successor has been found and the Govfeat, the Government next erament is to advertise the post and appoint headhunters to seek a replacement.

The public acknowledgement

NM Rothschild, Mr Salmon is thought to have private means which give him the income to take a career break without hav-

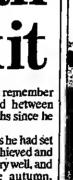


someone else, he added. Mr Salmon, 50, confi

that he had not found a new job iday before deciding what to do. The announcement of his early chising, was forced on the Gov-

A former merchant banker at ing a joh to go to.

wait longer than October to en-sure a smooth handover if the ap-pointment of a successor could not be made in time. His replacement would have to be able to "stand up to the secretary of state as well as work with him".



preparations for completion of vanced stage. It was appropri-

and said he planned to take a holdeparture, less than four years into his five-year term of office as director of passenger franernment because under the rules for share sales it will have to be

that he is leaving before the sales are complete could hardly have come at a worse time for the privatisation programme because only two of the 25 train-operating franchises have so far been let and another two awarded subject to contract. By the time Mr Salmon leaves nearly half the franchises are still likely to be awaiting huyers.

He said he would be willing to

Mike Tyson, unchastened by

three years in jail for rape and

unredeemed by his conversion

to Islam, remains unable to

control the demons within. So

says a woman who claims that

the World Boxing Council

heavyweight champion sexual-

ly assaulted her in a Chicago

Police say they are investi-

gating a complaint of criminal

sexual assault against Tyson,

who legitimately flattened

British champion Frank Bruno

in Las Vegas last month.

nightelub on Sunday.



Tory favour for Murdoch followed Heseltine lunch MATHEW HORSMAN

Media Editor The Government introduced a controversial amendment to the Broadcasting Bill lifting restrictions on Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, within two weeks of a lunch

meeting between Mr Murdoch and Michael Heseltine. A spokesman for the Deputy Prime Minister confirmed yesterday that Mr Heseltine had lunch with Mr Murdoch six weeks ago. It is believed they discussed an offer from Mr Murdoch to provide satellite dishes for every school in Britain, in return for govern-ment support over Mr Mur-our peer who led the Opposi-

Tyson on ropes after new sex attack claim

comment about the allegation, has not been charged. A Chica-go television station described

the woman as a 25-year-old

beautician from Indiana who,

according to her lawyer, is

frightened and wishes to keep

The lawyer, Jerry Lee Petect,

did not provide details of the

alleged assault but said his

client called the police after her

release from a Chicago hospi-

tal on Monday morning. "We're going to pursue the criminal av-

enne and also a civil case, "Mr

Peteet said. "She's scared, up-

set, angry, hurt." The manager

of The Clique nightclub has dis-

her identity a secret.

doch's plans to introduce digi-tal satellite services in the UK. That would involve the launch of a new digital satellite, capahle of providing a full range of

televised programming.
The possibility of a backroom deal has angered Labour MPs and could spark renewed debate over the Government's new Bill, it emerged last night.

Last month, soon after the lunch, the Government introduced an amendment to the Bill that would remove restrictions oo Mr Murdoch's BSkyB that prohibit it from owning more than 20 per cent of a domestic satellite service.

Lord Donoughue, the Lab-

introduced to Tyson, had nev-

er been alone with the boxer on

the night of the alleged incident.

with Mike," Mr Andrews said.

"Mike had two security guards

that he didn't hire - that we

hired. They were watching at all

times, to make sure nothing was

Andrews to fight Tyson's corner,

the suggestion being that the

bodyguards were there not so

much to protect Tyson, as to

spiritual adviser, came up with

Muhammad Siddeeq, Tyson's

protect others from him.

It was a curious way for Mr

going to happen."

"She was in an open space

tioo in the Lords' debate on the Bill, said last night: "I saw at the time that this [the amendment] was a major concession to Sky. although I didn't know what was hehind it. Now we appareotly

have the answer." The Government said the amendment was technical. A spokesman for the heritage department, which is sponsoring the Bill, said: "There is oo direct connection (between the amendment and any deal betweeo Mr Murdoch and Mr Heseltine]. We are oot aware of any lobbying on this issue."

A spokeswoman for News International, Mr Murdoch's UK newspaper company, said: "We are pleased that the Govern-

"I know one thing," said Mr

Siddeeq, who attended a Mus-

lim prayer service with Tyson on

Sunday morning. "Every time

Mike turns, or moves, there's

people out there who want to

do their thing. I give no cre-

of raping Desiree Washington.

a college student and Miss

Black America contestant. He

never repented, nor did he ever

admit his guilt, but he was re-

leased on parole 12 months ago

after serving three years of a six-

year sentence. He is on proba-

tion until 1999.

Tyson was convicted in 1992

dence to this report."

ment apparently agrees digital satellite is the fastest, quickest way to develop the information superhighway." She said she could not comment on the substance of discussions between

Final act: An earthmover begins demolishing the gym at Dunblane Primary School where 16 children and their teacher were shot dead by Thomas Hamilton, who went on to take his

own life, last month. Before demolition work began yesterday some of the bereaved parents were allowed their request to visit the gym one last time Photograph: lan Waldie: Reuter

Mr Murdoch and Mr Heseltine. A Murdoch insider downplayed the issue. "There's this great belief that there are po-fitical deals going on all the time, and that they all involve Mr Murdoch. Sure we lobby, everyone lobbies."

Mr Heseltine's office said he had been "looking at all the options, cable and satellite among them, to connect schools to the information highway." The spokesman said he could TURN TO PAGE 2

Churchill row

MP Winston Churchill may finance his divorce with £4.5m of the lottery money paid for his grandfather's papers. Page 3

Sun 'slowing down' The sun's core may he rotating more slowly than it did a decade

Today's weather Some sunny spells after a misty Section two, page 29





When you receive your next tax return, open it immediately because we've enclosed some important information about Self Assessment.

Self Assessment

Keep an eye open for it!

ONE

Tyson: Refusing to comment

BUSINESS 20-24 COMMENT 18,19 CROSSWORD 28 GAZETTE 16 LEADING ARTICLES 18 LETTERS 18 NEWS ANALYSIS 17 OBITUARIES 16 SHARES 23 SPORT 25-28- UNIT TRUSTS 24

Tyson, who has made no puted the woman's claims

section

ARTS 8,9 CHESS 27 CROSSWORD 30 DILEMMAS 7 EDUCATION 16-18 FILM 10-15 LISTINGS 28.29 LIVING 4-6 RADIO 31 TELEVISION 32 WEATHER 29

3 520 0 ●

Moody Andrews said that the what might prove to be a more woman, who had asked to be convincing defence.

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Mobile 000 6543/

NICOLE VEASH

Inland waterways, part of our 19th-century heritage, need more care, attention - and investment - according to a report published yesterday. The Inland Waterways

Amenity Advisory Council (TWAAC) says the use and con-servation of over 5,000 miles of waterways should be higher up the political agenda.

Waterways have "untapped ecocomic and social potential and the Government should investigate why, despite incentives, there was little evidence of the transfer of freight haulage from roads to waterways.

Among the 31 recommendadons, TWAAC suggests anglers should pay towards maintaioing the rivers they

And it also proposes measures to encourage tourism. leisure and sport.

Audrey Lee, chairman of IWAAC, said: "Waterways are not like stately homes which you just look at. We must make bet-



waters: Holidaymakers aboard narrow boats on the Grand Union Canal at Buckby Lock, near Daventry, Northamptonshire

Teachers plan action against bullying heads

FRAN ABRAMS

Bullying headteachers who make their staff ill by shouting at them in front of pupils, damaging their property and even hitting them, could face action, a teachers' union conference will be told today.

A growing number of teachers are becoming sick with worry because of pressures brought to bear as a result of increased competition, inspections and league tables, the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers warn.

A report published at the union's annual meeting in Glasgow presents a catalogue of abuses to which members have been subjected.

One head scrawled the words "Dead, dead" on a teacher's desk in red chalk and hit another member of staff, the report says.

A teacher took her sick child into school wrapped in a hlanket because she was so afraid to take time off, and another left after being bullied by a gover-nor, who was also the parish

In another case, an independent schoolteacher who refused the sexual advances of the head was so stressed by the incidents that she was off sick for a year before taking early retirement. Others claimed to have suffered nightmares for months after leaving their jobs and developed illnesses such as shingles and eczema through

A survey of 3,500 teachers carried out by the union found that seven out of 10 had either been subjected to serious bullying or had witnessed the bullying of others. The most commoo forms.

consisted of innuendo, sarcasm and being shouted at in front of colleagues or children. But two per cent of those who responded had suffered physical violence and damage to their property.

One male teacher in a spe-

cial school said he felt powerless to deal with his head's increasingly violent and bizarre behaviour. "She physically hit one member of staff. She wrote 'dead, dead' on my desk in red chalk. The woman was deranged, but no one wanted to deal with it. I consider myself tough, hut she almost hroke me," he wrote.

Another commented: "I can only describe the ethos of my school as like working for Idi Amin – I never know if I'm going to be smiled upon or be verhally 'clubbed to death'."

A motion to be debated today will call for support for members who take concerted action against bullying. Such practices contravene health and safety laws and should oot he tolerated, it says.

Jim Hughes, deputy head of Thamesmead Community College in Bexley. Greater London. hlamed increased competition

Ruddles County Riddles.

Last summor, Stephoo and Jonane Pecker, were on their way to meet

some very old friends, the Bells. They had arranged to meet over a

refreshing pint of thet king of alos, Ruddlos County at the Singing

After passing through Little Nortoo, they reached a crossroads.

Thoir friends' instructions said "Fellew signs to Chipping Sherhourne,"

But the signeest had been knocked over sed they were nouble to tell

which direction to take.

Not beving a map, they sat is their car

trying to decide which of three possible

roods they should take. After 20 minutes

Coeld you have pointed them in the right direction?

No. 4. Pointless Road Sign.

Lark Puh, deep in the countryside.

Owners expect house price rise

Home owners are confident the housing market will pick up, with a rise in prices and quicker house sales, according to a report released yesterday

between schools for the prob-Two-thirds of 20,000 house bolders questioned expected "As a deputy head there are house prices to rise in the next year. Around 6 per cent thought they would fall. Although 55 per ressures on me to make sure that I am producing the goods. cent interviewed thought they But I don't believe in any way that the method of dealing with would have some difficulty selfit is by bullying," he said.
"You get the best from peoing their houses if put on the market, this was down from 74 per coot in 1992. ple by making them feel part of

an organisation, by being pos-itive and making them feel they

are achieving something."

Addressing the conference

yesterday, the Liberal Democ-

rat education spokesman, Don

Foster, said calls by the chief

inspector of schools for the

sacking of bad teachers had also

"Far too many teachers are

demoralised, suffering stress

related illness, taking early re-

tirement and bowed down by

constantly changing demands and lack of support," he said.

Mr Foster also attacked plans

by Labour to allow schools to

borrow up to £3bu from the

hanks to clear a backlog of

An Essex headteacher de-

scribed yesterday how his car went out of control when a dis-

ruptive 10-year-old who he was

giving a lift home attacked him.

Templars Junior School and

Support Ceotre in Witham,

said that neither the seatbelt

nor two minders who had ac-

companied the child were able

to restrain him. The car was

damaged in the accideot, but no

Ted Burns, delivery driver for Ruddlos Brewery, come across thom, ood was able to gaide them to the pab.

They spont the root of the afternoon catching up with their old friends over a flovoursoma piet of County.

Solution: They could have pointed the sign back down the read loverda Little Nortus, the utga would then point the way to Chipping Sherbearne.

The Bolls told them how they could have discovered the right way to go without Ted's help.

one was hurt.

Julian Johnson, head of

repairs and maintenance.

increased pressures.

The findings come from the latest report from the Survey of. English Housing, a continuous survey on the state of housing in England begun in April 1993 and published by the Office for National Statistics.

The average mortgageholder is speoding £57 a week on their mortgage, while private tenants are paying £70 a week, housing association tenants £46 and council tenants £37.

The number of owner-occupiers remains at 13.4 million (68 per cent of householders).

Another survey published yesterday has found the rise in the annual cost of living has slowed, helped by stagnating house and fuel costs. Food prices and the cost of renled housing were still forging ahead, according to the Cost of Living Survey by Reward Group for

firms relocating their employees. The survey looks at wages and costs, such as housing, food and tax. It said the cost of living rose 2.1 per cent in the last 12 months. The average family of four living in a three-bedroom house with a car and telephone need a gross income of £19,238, compared with £19,039 last year.

Attack on experts' 'ecstasy safe' claim

HEATHER MILLS Home Affairs Correspondent

Leading drug experts yesterday backed a social services director who provoked a storm of protest after claiming the dance drug ecstasy is "relatively safe".

Paul Betts, father of Leah, the Essex teenager who died last year after taking a tablet on her 18th hirthday, immediately deoounced the claim by Mary Hartnoll, Glasgow's director, as "totally irresponsible".

Nigel Evan, the Conservative MP and anti-ecstasy campaigner, said she was ignoring the "appalling" side-effects, including heart and kidney failure and long term depression.

However, some psychiatrists

and drug experts said that, takeo in context, her views were 'spot on" and "helpful" to the debate on the drug problem. Mrs Hartnoll's commeots

came in a written response to the city's licensing board, which has launched a hard-line antidrugs drive. It is shunning the introduction of harm reducchill-out areas in clubs - being promoted by those working in he field of drugs use and abuse. She argued the "fear" mes-

sage was not getting through to

young people because it did not accord with their own drug-using experience and behaviour. "The irony is that ecstasy, for example, is a relatively safe drug risk of death has been calculated as one in 6.8 million - (the risk of dying from an ordinary dose of aspirin is very much greater) and young people tend to know this," she wrote.

For every highly-publicised death, those who use regularly balance their experience of their own, and frieods' experieoce of frequent, safe and en-

joyable usage". She was not available for comment yesterday, but Mr Betts said of her views: "To come from such a prominent person, it's absolutely stupid." He told the BBC: "She should look at her facts and get her facts right before she makes such a sweeping statement."

American research had

and irreversible hrain damage, he said, referring to a two year study carried out by Dr Charles Grob for the US Food and Drug Administratioo in California. However, UK drug experts

said they wanted to see the re-search published and tested before commenting on it - and stressed the damage caused by prolonged use of alcohol and smoking.

Now big business in the UK with estimated sales of 100 million tablets a year - ecstasy or "E" was patented in Germany 80 years ago as a treatment for obesity. It triggers chemical changes in the brain; giving a boost of energy and a feeling of

well being.
John Davies, professor of psychology at Strathclyde University, said: "Even using the most alarming estimates, ecstasy is not a major cause of death among young people.'

He suggested that Mrs Hartnoll's views were shared by most working in the field of drug use and abuse, who wanted lo see harm reduction - rather than tion measures - like advice and found ecstasy caused permanent failed attempts at eradication.

ting nothing resembling an of-

fence under the Misuse of

Drugs Act they departed, leav-ing untouched the chocolate

cake flayoured with the nutty

taste of hemp seed and other

Green light for

photo licences New plastic driving licences bearing a photograph of the holder are to be issued early next year. The scheme was first announced by the Guvernment in 1994 after surveys showed that four in five people were in favour of the idea.

Chulluse Ich

Police of

join the

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222...7

Transport Minister Steven Nortis said the cards would "bring significant benefits in es-tablishing identity and the pre-vention of fraud." Civil liberties group Liberty said: "The pho-to licence should be viewed with alarm by anyone concerned about police powers, their own privacy or the risk of frand,"

Hunt for runaway

A convicted sex offender is on the run after escaping from a psychiatric hospital's secure ward. Police believe Lee Thompson, 21, who disap-peared from St Nicholas' Hos-pital at Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, may be heading for Lincolnshire or Hertfordshire, where he has family links.

Tank off the rails

A 25-tonne army tank turned 360 degrees and rolled down a railway embankment after it fell off a train near Catterick Garrison in Yorkshire. The Warrior was one of 30 being loaded on the train as part of a £750,000 exercise to prove that. they are better moved by rail: than road. No one was hurt.

Chunnel drugs bust

The first drug smuggler caught using the Channel Tunnel was jailed for two years. Southwark Crown Court heard that John Cornish, 36, of Sandmere Place, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, strapped three kilos of cannabis to his legs and took the Eurostar train from Paris to London Waterloo on 17 January.

Video hire record

The number of videos hired out by Britain's largest rental chain, Blockbuster, topped one million for the first time last week. The most requested film was Braveheart, which was hired 122,000 times from the firm's 690 stores. The record is part of a pattern : reversing a six-year slump in UK video rentals.

Holy unethical

A firm who claimed their £5 statues of the Virgin Mary immersed in holy water could improve people's lives were ordered to withdraw their advertisements after complaints from the Catholic church. The Advertising Standards Authority agreed that Chartsearch, of Islington, north London, were targeting the vulnerable.

Bank raid shooting

A bank customer was shot by a robber after staff refused to hand over any cash. The 57year-old victim was wounded in the leg when the gunman opened fire at the Cooperative Bank in Durham before throwing away his handgun and flee-ing empty-handed. The injured man is comfortable in hospital after surgery.

Lots of memories

A fan of The Archers spent £550 on memorabilia from the early days of the radio soap. tographs were put on sale by actress Joy Davies, who played. Helen Fairbrother in the 1950s. Jan Stretch, 45, from Worcester, bought all three lots after beating off bids from a former producer of the BBC Radio 4. programme.

Dead baby appeal.

Police appealed for the mother of a new-born baby found dead in undergrowth to come forward after a post-mortem revealed the boy was stillborn. Four boys playing near a pool on wasteland behind a leisure centre in Dudley, West Mid-lands, found the body on Tuesday. It is helieved to have been in the undergrowth for at least 24 hours.

Lloyd's of London

We have been asked to correct a report in last Priday's Independent (5 April) of a racial discrimination action in which two Asian risk assessors were awarded £30,000. Both men were employed by Lleyer's Register of Shipping, and not, as stated, by the Lloyd's of London insurance market

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Cannabis centre opens

LOUISE JURY

The House of Hemp was not entirely sure who alerted them, but it was just hours before its official opening that the inspector and chief inspector from Bethnal Green police sta-

tion chose to call. The house is to be home to the Cannahis Hemp Informadon Club (CHIC) whose members are all keen advocates of the lesser-known qualities of

Cannabis sativa. Its opening aware of the difference. Spot-

and used for paper-making and

high" prohibited by law.

had obviously prompted alarm at the local station Those behind the centre say that while innocent hemp grown in Britain under licence,

The officers were clearly

textiles - was the same plant as illegal cannabis, the typical hemp seed possessed only a fraction of THC, the "active ingredient" which produces the

hemp-enhanced goodies.
Thus the formal opening of the information centre and museum in Shoreditch, dedicated to public education, was able to go ahead. The Home Secretary may be invited.

Murdoch and a favour for Sky

FROM PAGE 1 oot say what Mr Heseltine and Mr Murdoch discussed. The Government has been

looking at ways of expanding the advantages of the information highway to more people. Its ef-forts were redoubled following the controversial deal between BT and the Labour Party last autumn underwhich BT would connect schools, hospitals and public institutions in return for the freedom to offer broadcast services over its telephone lines under a Labour Government. Lewis Moonie, the Labour MP who will jointly handle the Onnosition's role in the Commons debate oo the Bill, starting next week, said: "I can't read Murdoch's mind but I certaioly know about Heseltine, and he is desperate to be seen to he doing something about education and computers."

As reported in the Independent last month, the controversial ameodment was aimed at removing domestic satellite from the list of services which large newspaper groups are barred from controlling. Other items on the list include ITV licences and national radio.

Only publishers controlling

UK national press had been caught by the original clause. This takes in Mr Murdoch's News International — owner of the Sun, the News of the World, the Times and the Sunday Times
and the Mirror Group, which publishes the Daily and Sunday Mirror, Daily Record, the People and which owns 43 per cent of the Independent and the Inde-pendent on Sunday.

BSkyB is currently a non-domestic broadcaster, because it uses the Astra satellite, based in Luxemburg. By lau oching its own UK-based service, it could provide up to 200 channels directly to UK homes, freeing up space on Astra to use for its contine otal pay-TV operations, in league with Bertelsmann and Canal Plus, with which it has formed a strategic alliance.

Analysts say BSkyB could thereby extend its current dominant positioo into the digital The amendment also allows

the Mirror Group to launch a domestic satellite service. But David Montgomery, chief executive of MGN, said last night: "There is only one company that could afford to launch such a service, and that is Sky. It more than 20 per cent of the smacks of political impropriety."

Riddle

of dead

goose, a

dog and

the MP

Labour's former deputy leader,

Roy Hattersley, is well used to

the dog-eat-dog world of poli-tics. But life can be much more

troublesome, he bas discovered, if your dog chooses to eat something else.

Mr Hattersley, a well-documented lover of animals, has

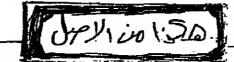
been questioned by police over

an allegation that his dog killed

a goose in a royal park nn

JOJO MOYES

Easter Monday.



Churchill may use lottery cash to pay ex-wife

Green light for photo licences

Hunt for hime

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Burney Service

The trust which received £12.5m of lottery money for the sale of the Churchill archive. amid national fury, said it would consider allowing Winston Churchill, the MP and grandson of the former prime minis-ter, to take out £4.5m for part of his divorce settlement.

Peregrine Churchill, the 82-year-old nephew of Sir Winston and one of three trustees, said they had not been approached yet, but they would consider an application from Mr Churchill, 55, who was seen as the driving force behind the sale of his grandfather's papers last year.

As part of his divorce settlement from Minnie, his wife of 32 years, Mr Churchill is allegedly offering to set up a new trust with money from the sale. Their children, John, 20, Jennie, 28, Marina, 27, and Randolph, 30, would benefit from the fund, while Mrs Churchill would live off the proceeds from any investments.

Peregrine Churchill said he and the other two trustees, lan Montrose, the family solicitor, and Lord Digby, would consider any requests for money once all the lottery grant had been paid



Sir Winston: Left papers in trust

would have to consider it no its merits. They have the power to do anything because the trust allows for the fact that conditions change, but we would not just give mnney away because we like someone."

The Churchill papers were the nnly valuable asset left to the family when Sir Winston died in 1965. According to his family, he was anxious his offspring should not suffer poverty as he did in his youth, and he drew up the trust after the Second World War, which specified the beneficiaries would be his direct descendants in the male line for four generations.

The collection, known as the He said: "He hasn't asked us Chartwell Papers, contains alyet, and if he did the trustees most everything Sir Winston

wrote before 1945, including letters hame from prep school, notes an the abdication, and drafts of wartime speeches, including "we shall fight them on the heaches".

One of the most nutspoken critics of the sale was stoical about the reported intention of Mr Churchill to create a new trust. Dr Jnhn Charmley, the historian and Churchill biographer, said he still considered that the nation had in effect bought something it already

owned a large proportion of.

But he said: "Ynu can't deny
Minnie the fact she deserves a substantial sum, but quite whether the British public should be involved in funding

it is a different matter."
Mr Churchill, MP for Davyhulme in Manchester whn lists his hubbies as "country pursuits" in Who's Whn, is report-edly anxious to marry Luce Danielson, 53, a Belgian jewellery designer. He previously had a five-year affair with Soraya Khashoggi, former wife of the arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi. He was also linked to Jan Cushing, an American heiress, who said of his wife: "If she has a good lawyer, she'll demand half his money, and she deserves it. She's given him her life." Mr Churchill was





Eagle eye: Lone bird on the wing (left) and at rest; visitor with baby watching England's only nest (below)

Twitching to see eagles and egg

NICOLE VEASH

England's only breeding gold-en eagles have laid another egg in the Lake District cyric they have inhabited for more than 25 years.

Hundreds of 'twitchers' have arrived to catch a glimpse of the pair whose nest nn a craggy ridge in the Riggindale Valley is guarded night and day by a warden from the Royal Society for the Protectinn of Birds. Bird watchers will be keep-

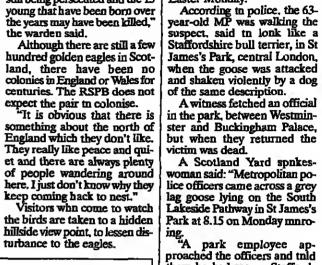
ing a close eve on the nest after the disappointment of the last four years, when none of the eggs laid was hatched. Although the eagles have

We know birds of prey are still being persecuted and the 15 young that have been born over the years may have been killed," the warden said. Although there are still a few

hundred golden eagles in Scotland, there have been no colonies in England or Wales for centuries. The RSPB does not expect the pair in colonise.

"It is obvious that there is something about the north of England which they don't like. They really like peace and quiet and there are always plenty of people wandering around

reared more than 15 young the birds are taken to a hidden since 1969, they have all disaphillside view point, to lessen disturbance to the eagles.



them he had seen a Staffordshire buil terrier-type dog attack the bird, "The witness gave a descrip-

tion of the dog and owner and the police spoke to a man soon afterwards at the junction of Buckingham Gate and Wilfred "Following further inquiries the officers made a report to the

Royal Parks police for their consideration on whether to take further actinn," she added.

A Royal Parks police spokesman said it was "pursu-ing inquiries to decide whether a prosecution will follow in due course". Staff at St James's Park said

yesterday that had been in-structed not to talk about the case because of the high-profile of the suspect's owner. Royal parks regulations made it an offence to cause or

permit any animal of which someone is in charge in chase, worry or injure any other ani-Dogs are allowed to be off

cads in "certain areas" of the royal parks.

The MP for Birmingham Sparkbrook, who once spoke up aging responsible dog ownership", could face a fine of up tn £200 for breaking park regulations.

He was not available for comment yesterday.

Police offer chance to join the crimebusters

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent-

The public will be given the chance to take part in a helicopter rescue and solve a tricky murder before finishing the day by quelling a riot, under proposels for Britain's first national police museum.

The police "visitors centre" is expected to cost about £20m and hopes to attract 600,000 600,000 at touring exhibitions.

their backing to the plans at a meeting yesterday, hope to cash in on the public's fascination with crime, criminals and coppers and provide an education, with a cross between the Science Museum and Alton Towers.

At the end of the month the Association of Chief Police Officers should learn whether their application for £10m of lattery maney from the

Millennium Commission, has and aspects of police history and

been successful.

Among the interactive displays planned for the centre, which will probably be based in Leidon, is a helicopter, for visitors to experience a flight over London where a drowning man will be plucked from the River Thames stabbed in the leg in 1978 by a A car simulator will offer high. KGB agent in London. speed chases, and would be stars of ITV's The Bill series will be able to orchestrate beat officers, people a year, with an extra not police and armed-response vehicles from a mock up of a po-

Visitors will be able to take part in a murder hunt and use the latest DNA and fingerprint technology. Those wanting to track down the next Nick Leeson, who brought down Barings Bank last year, could sift through "cooked" books and

pretend to be a fraud officer. There will also be videos and information about drugs and the criminal justice system notorious cases, such as the Dr Crippen murders, the Great Train Robbery, and the Kray hrothers. Possible displays include the umbrella gun and pellet used to kill Georgi Markov, the Bulgarian defector who was

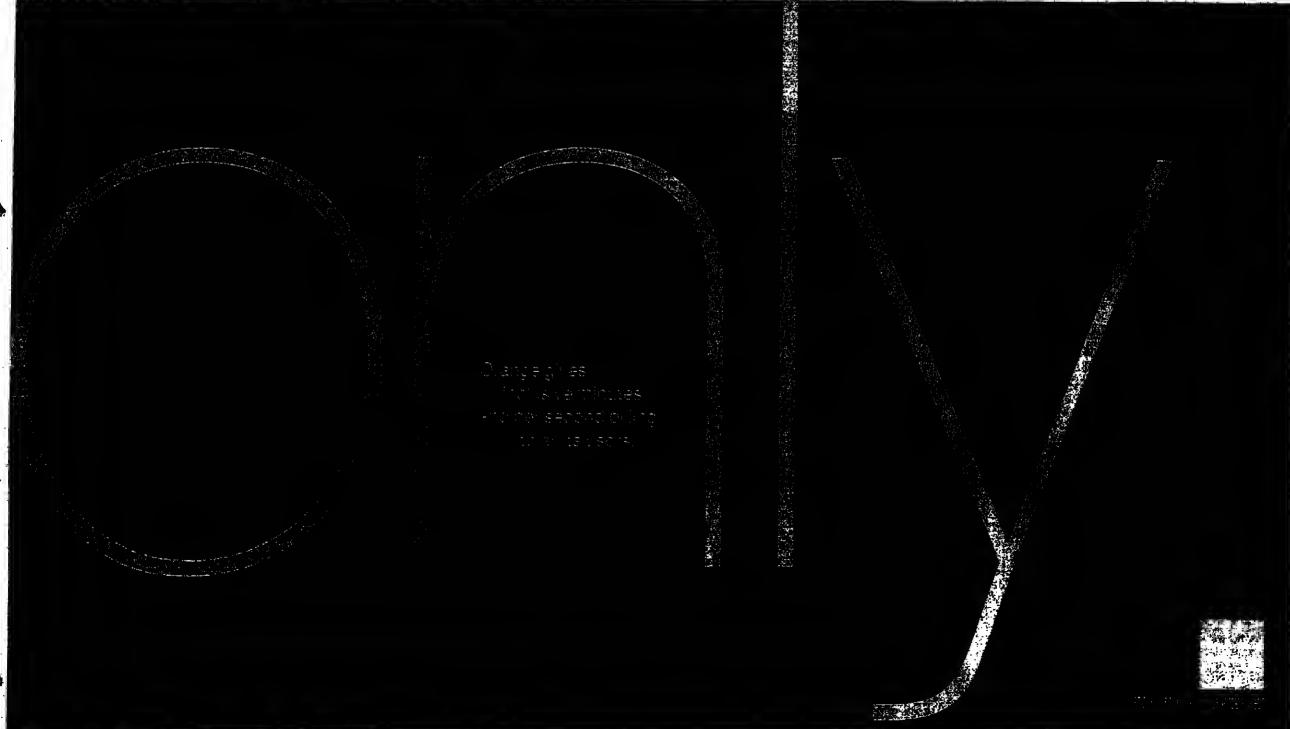
Still under considering is how to address issues such as race relations and youth culture. The site of the old Bow Street

police station in central London ject, but it is believed to he too small. Alternative sites are being looked at. In addition to the main display the police propose to have an annual touring exhibition and a number of smaller mobile units. Sponsors have already been found to match any lottery money.

It is hoped the centre will be open by April 1999, in time for the millennium celebrations.



One of the eagles soars above the Lake District (left) Photograph: Tom Finnie And another at rest (above)



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news

Farming debate: Attack on union bias and outdated policy

Organic farmers urged to quit NFU

NICHOLAS SCHOON Environment Correspondent

A leader of Britain's organic farmers yesterday urged all of them to follow his example and quit the National Farmers

Patrick Holden, director of the Soil Association and British Organic Farmers, said an article by two NFU economists in yesterday's Independent was the straw that broke the

camel's back' "I've now lost patience with the NFU - this is the latest example of them giving us only token support, of effectively damning us with faint praise. he said. The article, by Tom Maher and Sion Roberts, was in response to the Independent on Tuesday, when the entire comment page was devoted to the case for organic farming. That dehate followed the BSE

The NFU's economists argued that it would be "folly" for all or most of Britain's farmers to switch to organic production, because there was no widespread demand for such produce and it would make them internationally uncompetitive.

Mr Holden, who has an organic farm near Lampeter in North Wales, said he had stayed in the NFU because it exerted a powerful influence on the Ministry of Agriculture and had shown some support for organic farming. Now it was clear that the union only saw this type of agriculture occupying a small niche, he said, never as-

suming a significant role. He added: "It's time the NFU took a serious look at its outdated policy and prejudices, and until it does I'm out. My farming partner and I pay a £200 annual subscription to the — meeting consumer demand. NFU and £40 to British Organic

Farming [which represents and services only organic producers]. With the kind of backing we're getting from the union that makes no sense for us or any other BOF member.

He will make his call in the next issue of New Farmer and Grower, but he wants to continue talking to the union because some of its senior office-holders are sympathetic.

BOF has 600 members, of whom more than half are with the NFU. Organic production covers just 0.3 per cent of Britain's total agricultural land and most of the United King dom's organic food is imported. The producers argue that the best of them can now produce yields close to those averaged by conventional farmers and growers, while minimising harm to the envi-rounent and creating safe food.

In 1989, BOF and the Soil Association announced their goal of raising this percentage area to 20 per cent by 2000, although the two now merged organisations admit they are unlikely to achieve it. Mr Holden said their estimate was that 5 per cent of existing British farms could now convert to organic farming profitably, but the great majority could not because existing European Union and government policies locked them into intensive farming.

The association promotes organic produce and certifies that it meets government and European standards for being pesticide and fertiliser-free.

An NFU spokeswoman regretted Mr Holden's decision. She said the union had no policy for how large organic farming should become in Britain, because that was down to the decisions of individual farmers Letters, page 18

Food for thought: Ostriches at an Oxfordshire farm yesterday. The British flock has grown Photograph: Joel Chant to 10,000 strong in less than decade

Ostrich investors panic as firm folds

NICHOLAS SCHOON

Britain's great ostrich investment bubble was deflating rapidly yesterday, with fraught nvestors jamming the phone line of a company under investigation by the Serious Frand

Nottinghamshire police have been called in by the SFO and another force is also expected to be involved in the inquiries into the Ostrich Farming Corporation, which is being wound up by the Department of Trade and industry.

The BSE scare should be giv-

ing Britain's fast-growing ostrich farming industry its greatest boost as consumers seek an alternative red meat to beef. But instead, the closure of the Ostrich Farming Corporation (OFC), which has several thousand ostriches on farms in Belgium, is exposing how speculative the boom has been. Ostrich meat has been much

talked up as a new food for the next century - red fleshed with good texture and a pleasant, gamey taste which is much lower m fats and especially cholesterol than other red meats. The composer Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber has joined the rush, raising the huge, flightless birds on his estate near Ascot. While the British farmed

flock has gone from zero to about 10,000 in less than a decade, it consists almost entirely of breeding stock. Very few have been killed for the pot. The British Domesticated

Ostriches Association, which represents the 300-plus farmers, says there is not yet one ostrich abattoir in Britain although there are plans for three.

The rapid growth of the breeding flock has been fuelled by the hope that the market would expand while the meat would continue to fetch the premium, novelty price of about £18 a pound. But while ostrich has found its way on to the menus of a few pubs and restaurants, but has failed to establish itself on the all-important supermarket shelves. And the gap between the price of good carcass (£450) and a live breeding bird (up to £14,000)

looks enormous.
The Ostrich Farming Company offered investors the chance to buy ostriches of all ages - from chicks to breeding adults, and promised an annu-

al return of just over 50 per cent of their initial investment. It was an extremely attractive rate by any standards - based on them getting a guaranteed price for a guaranteed number of chicks produced by their breeders and was promoted through extensive advertising. It is these advertisements which are being investigated by the Advertising

Standards Authority. With hindsight, there were obvious warnings. The Securities and Investments Board warned that ownership of an ostrich was not regarded as an investment - and owners would not be entitled to the official Investors Compensation Scheme

in the event of a collapse The board had looked into OFC's claims and passed a file to the Department of Trade and Industry, which last week asked the High Court for the firm to be wound up. The Official Receiver has been appointed as the provisional liquidator.

OFC's managing director Brian Ketchell used to run a video rental chain, Video Magic, which went into liquidation in 1991. Yesterday, he could not be contacted at the firm's offices in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

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Tenants from hell' evicted

A family of 17, hranded "the neighbours from hell", are to be evicted from their home after the court after an injunction last 500 complaints, a council said

48 hours to leave their council house in Wythenshawe, Manchester, after a judge granted the city council a repossession order.

Mrs Potts was ordered to move out after Salford County Court heard a catalogue of complaints from outraged

neighbours.
"Members of the family were chronically noisy, used abusive language and threatened vio-lence towards their neighbours and were involved in vandalism and hurglary," a Manchester city council spokeswoman said.

Mrs Potts, 50, hit the headlines 17 months ago after police arresting her on charges of handling stolen goods put down "ugly" as her occupation. She had been sharing her

three-bedroomed family home, designed for six, with up to 17 people, after moving in two

years ago.
The family, who have clocked up more than 500 complaints to the council from neighbours, had been evicted from their previous council house in Manchester for causing a nuisance. Three of their neighbours,

year failed to have any effect.
"In the teeth of harassment

Mother-of-10 Kay Potts and and intimidation, these extraher extended family were given ordinarily brave individuals were determined to appear in court to fight for themselves and their community," a council spokeswoman said.

One neighbour, Gerard Ridings, 57, said yesterday: "To call them the neighbours from hell is an understatement. They're an evil lot."

Mr Ridings, a keen garden-er, who had had bricks thrown at him, his greenhouse shattered, his home vandalised and his garage set on fire, said: "In the end I'd just had enough."

Chair of housing at Man-chester council, Claire Nangle, praised the "courageous" tenants for "helping to end a nuisance which has caused so much

"This is an important and suc-cessful story in the fight against anti-social behaviour," she said. The council's policy was to find evicted families temporary accommodation while their case was reviewed hut the judgement made it clear that families like the Potts must mend their ways, she said.

A spokesman for Mrs Potts's solicitor said she had no comment to make.

Neighbour's noise 'provoked' shots

A man who fired an air rifle at the home of a noisy neighbour was fined and given a suspend-ed jail sentence at the Old Bai-

ley yesterday. William Vonck, 40, of Clapham, south London, who runs a property firm, "snapped" because of the loud music constantly played by Simon Batt, 32, who lived on the ninth floor of a tower block. Vonck fired at least eight pellets at Mr Batt's home, and allegedly cracked a window

pane, the court was told. Judge Michael Stuart-Moore

said: "Your patience snapped because of the loud music. Mr Batt was a self-centred, inconsiderate neighbour of the very worst kind ... I accept you were very heavily provoked." He added that Mr Vonck was "very

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lucky" to avoid prison.
Police found an air rifle with
telescopic lenses and an antique shotgun, for which Mr Vonck had held an expired licence.

Mr Vonck was fined £4,500, plus £500 costs and given a sixmonth prison sentence suspended for two years.





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Court battle: Student alleges negligence by top firm in UK

Solicitors sued over millionaire's will

JOJO MOYES

Britain's biggest firm of solicitors is being sued in the High Court oext week for alleged negligence over the will of Belgravia property developer Eric Hopton.

Clifford Chance, which with 240 partoers in 23 countries is also the second largest solicitors firm in the world, is being sued by 22-year-old university student Dominic Trusted, the great-nephew of Eric Hopton and a potential beneficiary of his will.

Among the witnesses expected to appear are George Staple, head of the Serious Fraud Office and former partoner at Clifford Chance, and Rona, Lady Delves Broughton, whose father-in-law, Sir Jock Delves Broughton, was acquitted of murdering the Earl of Erroll in a case that inspired the 1987 film White

The case revolves around



George Staple: Former partner at Clifford Chance

the multi-million pound estate left by Mr Hopton, who died in 1991 before completing a new will. Mr Hopton, whose Belgravia Property Company was sold for £48.5m to Elliott Bernerd, owner of the Wentworth

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Mr Hopton had a youoger brother John, who died in 1978 leaving two sons and a sister, Eileen, Dominic Trusted's mother. His will was not completed or signed and Mr Trusted, as a potential beneficiary, alleges negligence over the way to which the new will was bandled. He is suing for more than

The defendants in the action are Clifford Chance and one of its partners, solicitor David Bowyer, who handled affairs relating to Mr Hopton's will. George Staple, a former part-ner in the firm, was Mr Hopton's solicitor in all other matters.

A separate but related action by Mr Hopton's close friend Rona, Lady Delves Broughton, which was also beguo in December 1993, has beeo discontinued.

Lady Delves Broughton, 55, a Lloyd's of London council

Club, died aged 72 of a heart member, was a director of Mr Hoptoo's property company and nursed him through his final illness. He and her late hus-haod, Sir Evelyn Delves Broughton, had been friends at

> She dropped her action, which was claiming £500,000 over the uncompleted will, earlier this mooth. Her solicitors. Goodman Derrick, said yesterday that she had "made a con-tribution" of £175,000 to Clifford Chance's costs.

Perry Simson, a partner at Clifford Chance, said yesterday: "We have been advised by counsel and the solicitors acting for us that the claim will fail and that it will be vigorously contested."

Mr Trusted, a studeot at Edinburgh University, is receiving legal aid to fight the court ac-tioo. He declined to comment yesterday.

The case, which begins in the High Court next Tuesday, is expected to last three weeks.

Tumim attacks Howard on jail reform

HEATHER MILLS Home Affairs Correspondent

Prison officers will be placed at even greater risk of violence, inury - and even death - by the Home Secretary's latest law and order package, the former Chief Inspector of Prisons warned yesterday.

In an-outspoken attack on last week's White Paper announcing sweeping reforms to sentencing, Judge Stephen Tumim condemned as "a very dangerous doctrine" plans to abolish automatic remission and parole and replace it with continuous assessment hy prison officers.

And he echoed the concerns of Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, by describing plans for minimum and mandatory life sentences for a range of offenders as a "denial of justice". It was forcing independent judges to become mere tools of the Government, he said. "It will mean overcrowding, great exense and a widening of the gap between the classes of our society rather than an attempt to help prisoners lead law-abiding

Judge Tumim lost his contract as the guardian of prisoners' rights and conditions last November, because of what insiders described as a head-oo clash with Michael Howard.

Yesterday it became clear that his removal had not silenced one of Mr Howard's most effective critics. He chose a book launch in Loodon to speak out. He said: "If you are not going to get parole or remission then you might as well beat up or murder a prison of-

What is worrying me is that continuous assessment is going to cause extremely bad relations, allegations of racism, of favouritism, of support by officers of snoops by one prisoner against another. Nothing could be worse for prison discipline than that."

The judge rejected Govern-ment claims that the tough oew measures were simply a response to overwhelming public demand for action against crime. Everybody always says the public wants tougher treatmeot of prisoners, rougher treatment of prisoners, oastier treatment of prisocers.

"I don't know what the public wants, but I suspect what it wants is to see justice done."



Judge Tumim: 'Worried'



Ex-care staff call for abuse inquiry

ROGER DOBSON

Staff who worked at one of the higgest homes involved in the North Wales child abuse scaodal vesterday backed calls for a

full public inquiry.

Care staff who worked at the Bryn Estyn Home io Wrexham Clwyd, where two senior staff were coovicted of abuse, say anything short of a full inquiry

would be unacceptable.
"The internal ioquiry was doomed to failure because, as many of us foresaw, there would be problems over publication because of the legal issues involved," said a spokeswoman who worked at the home for 10

The move by former staff comes amid growing concern that a 300-page report following a two-year investigation by three leading child care specialists will never be published.

It makes a series of recommendations to prevent a recurrence of the kind of events which in Clwvd led to years of abuse for as many as 200 young people. Several child care agencies, including Childline and NCH Action For Children, want the report published so that lessons can be learnt.

William Hague, the Secretary of State for Wales, will face a harrage of demands both for publication of the report and for a public inquiry from Labour's health spokesman in Wales, Rhodri Morgan, wheo the minister returns from leading a trade mission to the United States at the end of this week.

The Clwyd affair also raises important issues over the status of reports of investigations imo abusc claims. Some agencies believe that they should be given a status which guarantees indemnity against libel or other legal action.

Staff who worked at Bryn Estyn, which closed in 1984, say they have been concerned for some time about the issues surrounding child care in North Wales. Because of the pressure the staff felt, a support group has been set up offering help, advice and counselling to those





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France wins UK defence deal

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY Defence Correspondent

The French government is to acquire a majority share in the manufacture of vital equip-ment for Britain's "independent" nuclear deterrent in a new deal struck by French, British and Australian defence contractors. Although the arrangement is a purely commercial one, it gives new impetus to Franco-British co-operation on nuclear strategy, which could develop into a future European nuclear force.

A new company called Thom-son Marconi Sonar (TMS), with 3,500 employees in Britain. France and Australia, will be the second largest supplier of sonar equipment in the world. The new company will be based in France and the French governmentowned firm of Thomson-CSF will own 50.1 per cent of the shares. The British firm GEC-Marconi will own the rest. The new company will supply all the sonar equipment for the British and French submarine fleets -

including the 16,000 tonne British Vanguard class submarines which carry US-huilt Trident missiles. Two of the submarines are already in service. Two more will become operational in 1997 and 1999. New sonar equip-ment added to vessels in refit will be provided by TMS. The deal also means Britain

will have an almost identical share in the sonar of the new French Triomphant class ballistic missile-firing submarines, the first of which enters service later this year.

Denis Ranque, who will head the new company, said: "The acoustic signature of the submarines is a very sensitive mat-ter to the French and British governments but we have sat-isfied them we can maintain the necessary secrecy.

Discussions on Franco-British cooperation in nuclear strategy have in the past focused on agreed patrol areas, and technical collaboration on future torpedo-firing submarines. The new company has made that co-



Wings of desire: This is how Gormley's steel angel will appear to motorists on the A1 Photograph: Gateshead Council

£500,000 grant for steel angel

MARIANNE MACDONALD Arts Correspondent

The fiercely opposed project to erect a 60ft tall steel angel overlooking Gateshead has won more than half a million pounds in lottery funding, Lord Gowrie, the chairman of the Arts Council, will amounce today.

He will be in Tyneside this morning to aurounce a grant of

morning to announce a grant of £584,000 - a move which will earn him the cordial dislike, if not opprobrium, of most residents of the town.

The angel is the inspiration of Antony Gormley, who won the Turner Prize for works such as Field, a sea of 40,000 clay fig-urines, Testing a World View, in which five iron figures were shaped into awkward positions, and a 1988 work, a bed made from 6,000 slices of hread. His plan to erect the statue,

with a wing-span of 150ft, on the site of a former coal mine was put forward in a public art competition run by Labourcontrolled Gateshead council.

inally £250,000, hut now more than £800,000 – and its domi-nating size have aroused the town's ire. More than £150,000 is coming from the European Regional Development Fund and a further £45,000 from relentop-s

Northern Arts in Newcastle. Last year. 4,000 people signed a petition objecting to it, even though the Arts Council, European sources and Northern Arts, rather than the coun-

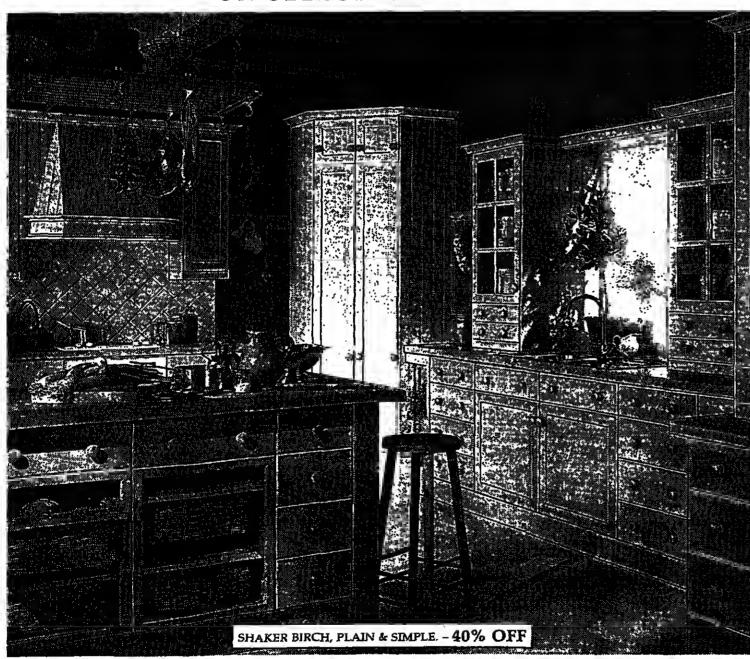
cil, will be paying the bill. Kathy King, a Liberal councillor, is one of those fighting to get the council to drop the scheme. "Quite frankly, it will be a monument to the stupidiof the council here in Gateshead, and you can quote me every word, per, because people here do not want that statue," she said yesterday.

Mr Gormley himself says the work will symbolise the spirit of the North-east. It will be visible throughout Tyneside and will be a landmark for anyone driving up from the south on the Al.

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Fear of ridicule keeps 'tough' boys from help

GLENDA COOPER

Boys who have been brutally illtreated are refusing to get help because they believe they must be tough and keep any worries
to themselves, according to a
new survey published by the
charity ChildLine.
Despite talk of the "New
Man", the macho stereotype

persists and boys who do speak

of their problems fear being ridiculed as weak wimps.

The report, We Know it's Tough to Talk, is based on a sample of the 16.505 boys who contacted the helpline in 1994-5 and a questionnaire carried out in secondary schools. The charity has also launched a campaign with the London Monarchs, Britain's only American football team, encouraging boys to call.

Four times as many girls as boys call ChildLine, and more than five times as many girls of 11-15 than boys.

Mary MacLeod, research director for ChildLine, said the proportion of boys calling with such serious problems that they had to be referred to police or social services was much higher than that of girls. Among boys, 18 per cent called about physical abuse, 17 per cent

about bullying, 11 per cent about sexual abuse and 8 per cent about sexuality. In com-parison girls called about a wider range of concerns, most frequently hullying or family problems, and proportionally fewer because of physical abuse.

Boys told of attempted strangulation, being thrown downstairs, beaten around the head and stabbed. "Steve", 13, said his father frequently got into a rage and hit him around the head, dragged him by his hair and pushed him downstairs. He added that because he was hlind his father would move objects so that he fell over them. And "Simon", 15, told Child-Line that the previous day his stepfather had beaten him with much more seriously if the

inal offences ... But for children the possibility of getting help or of the violence ending seems re-

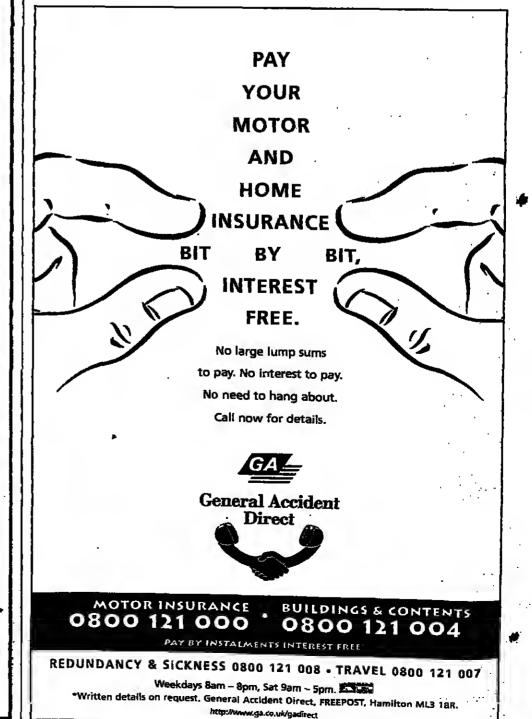
mote," Ms Macleod said. Both girls and boys talked of their feelings of worthlessness, hopelessness and low self-esteem. But boys were more liketo speak of anger and destructive behaviour, and were much more likely to be self-critical about having a problem at all, feeling that a "real" boy would have prevented or stopped bullying or assaults.

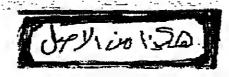
In the school survey, based on 1,453 completed questionnaires, 17 per cent thought it was acceptable for girls to get upset but boys should be tough. Half (51 per cent) said boys found it harder to talk than girls.

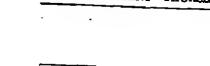
"Stereotyping seems to reach its height in adolescence when boys feel under great pressure to show they are tough." Esther Rantzen, chairwoman of Child-Line, said. "... But the 71 per cent increase in suicide by young men in the past 10 years. shows how dangerous it can be to bottle up distress.

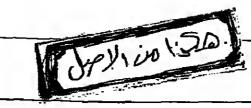
□ ChildLine (free): 0800 1111. a metal rod and broken his arm. Church of England is to widen its appeal into the next century, a report produced by the General Syood's board of education warned yesterday. The church is failing to recognise the potential of under-25s in playing an active part in the Christian community, according to the report, Youth A Pan. It says traditional services and styles of worship risk excluding young people, and calls for youth to be allowed to share in the leadership of flexible creative worship:

St Mag









news

WH Smith relents on 'top-shelf' magazines

LOUISE JURY

WH Smith's wholesale arm is giving newsagents the option to refuse to stock "adult" maga-zines after a campaign against the top-shelf sales by some retailers.

The high street chain's wholesale division will ask newsagents to "opt in" to the sales in future after complaints that soft porn material was being forced on retailers who did not want it.

WH Smith News distributes Imagazines and oewspapers in a "box-out" system, under which a pre-packed selection of items is sent to 20,000 independent

Although newsagents can elect oot to receive adult mag-azines, some claimed their wishes were not being respected and Hamdy Shahein launched a protest campaign from his shop m Stoke Newington, north London. At its peak, the opposition claimed support from 500 other shops.

The company, one of three wholesalers dominating the market, said yesterday it hoped the modification to the distribution procedure would meet the

A spokeswoman said: "There's been a lot of criticism weighed against us. We thought we'd clarify the matter once and for all to make sure we don't inflict these magazines oo people who don't want them." Other magazines would be selected and sent to the newsagents in-

Mr Shahein welcomed the move as a "step forward" but said pressure was being still placed upon oewsagents to accept the top-shelf material.

He accused WH Smith of stressing the good profits to be made, up 10 per cent on last year, io order to persuade

GLENDA COOPER

A network of public computer

kiosks, similar to the payphooe

system, should be set up to make sure the less well-off are

not excluded from the infor-

mation revolution, a consumer

The National Consumer Council wants "PC boxes" put

into libraries, hospitals and

community centres, so that peo-

ple unable to afford a comput-

hus VAT for an IBM-compat-

ible personal computer and

around £150 a year to link up

to information services providing access to the Internet. Less

than a quarter of UK house-

proposed exteoding universal

service in telecommunications to cover multi-media facilities in schools for five to sixteen-

year-olds. The NCC wants these

proposals extended to all consumers in public access points,

with special facilities for the

A version of this idea exists

in the Cambridge area. The Cambridge Oo-Line project,

I rememb**e**r Halstat. It clings

its feet lost in the black,

ilent waters of the lake Stilted houses paddled

in the shallows, their legs petrified and blackened with age

A shaft of light falls of the townspeople.

A fountain splashed by the bone-house where painted skulls and thigh-bones lay in the gloom of the cave-like crypt

to the towering peaks of the Dachstein,

housebound.

Halstat By Richard Ray

by its finger-tips

holds have a computer. The telecommunications watchdog Oftel has already

er can surf the Internet. It can cost a minimum of £700

watchdog said yesterday.

retailers to accept some of oearly 90 adult magazines on

the company's lists. "We're looking for total freedom of choice so that if the re-tailer doeso't want these magazines he doesn't have to have them. It's been proved that these magazines are harmful and degrading to women and not good for children." Mr Shahein, whose business

bas folded since he began his protest six years ago, but plans to continue the campaign, said newsagents were left with oo choice because only one wholesaler covered any particular area of the country. He claimed it was oot possible to deal with anyone other than WH Smith in north Loodon.

Brigitte Faubert, legislative officer of the National Federation of Retail Newsagents. said that although individual newsageots were supposed to have the right to refuse material, in practice they had limited negotiating rights.

The wholesaler "boxed out" to the retailers a selection that they had to accept or risk losing the supply. This left oewsageots paying for maga-zines which in some cases they knew they could oot sell, would return a month later and have to wait at least a further month before getting their mooey

"The top-shelf magazines are an additional problem. They have to pay for this material which is against their beliefs and it makes them a front line target for anybody coming in and asking they are displaying this filth," she said.

The federation has asked the Mooopolies and Mergers Commission to investigate the grip on the wholesale market by WH Smith, John Menzies and Surridge Dawson.

Watchdog calls

for 'Net' gains

Censoring top shelf, page 19

sponsored by the local cable company and the Internet ser-

vice provider Pipex, has

six terminals across the city.

Addenbrookes hospital also allows access to council services,

local voluntary groups and the

Ruth Evans, NCC director,

said: "We are living through a

technological revolution with

telecoms, broadcasting and

computing converging fast. The

information society could bring untold benefits - access to in-

formation, advice and educa-

tional services locally, nationally

structure to ensure open access,

full choice, fair prices and ad-

equate consumer protection." Barclays and Lloyds banks

will shortly introduce 50 kiosks where people will pay to surf the Internet and receive e-mail.

Eva Pascoe, training director

and co-founder of the Cyberia cafes, said: "It's good idea in principle. A kiosk would be OK

if all you wanted was stupid,

mindless touch-screen shop-

ping, but there is no easy way

to get round the Internet at the

moment without training."

DAILY POEM

Richard Ray is 13 and comes from Newcastle-under-Lyme. He won a special award for this poem, writteo two years ago

for the 1995 W H Smith Young Writers' Competition in the 9-to-12 age group. The collected winning eotries appear in Electric Full Stops, published by Macmillan Children's Books at £4.99. Details for entry into the 1997 Young Writers' Competition.

Writers' Competition will appear tomorrow.

"However, regulation has not kept pace with the changes. We need a more effective regulatory

Internet as a whole.

and internationally



Hostage to fortune: A scene from the Royal Opera House's production of 'Nabucco'

Photograph: Clive Barda

Albery puts the boo into Nabucco

MARIANNE MACDONALD and DANIEL ROSEMAN

The embattled Royal Opera House yesterday pledged to continue with its production of Nabucco despite the chorus of catcalls and boos which greeted its first night on Tuesday. The audience was incensed

by the way the director, Tim Albery, had interpreted the early Verdi masterpiece telling the Biblical story of King Nebuchadnezzer - Nabucco.

The boos were an identical reaction to his first staging of the production, which Albery directed at the Welsh National Opera last September.

The opera is set in the sixth century BC, when the Baby-lonian ruler Nabucco sacked Jerusalem, carried the Jews into exile, but then, after being struck mad by God, allowed them to return home.

In a deliberate flouting of cooveotions, Albery dressed the Israelite women as Victorian prostitutes in ballgowns and the men as early 20th century Chorus of disapproval

Harrison Birtwistle's Gawain Royal Opera House, London 1994: led by composers campaigning against avant-garde. Das Rheingold, ROH, 1994: the latex sults and flippers in Richard Jones's production. Don Giovanni, Glyndeboume

Festivel, 1994: suggestive move-ments with a statue of Virgin Mary in Deborah Warner's production.

middle-European Jews. The chorus crawled around the stage daubed with luminous paint, while soldiers in combat fatigues peevishly brandished

plastic guns.
The distinguished conductor Sir Edward Downes withdrew before the first night because he was "out of sympa-

thy" with the production.

A Royal Opera House spokeswoman said the opera, a co-production with WNO. would not be cancelled. "That would disappoint a lot of peo-ple who have booked and are coming to the performances."

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Inner-city violence: Birmingham counts cost of trouble as inquiry into Bradford clashes rejects 19 complaints



Virgin signs up Lisa Leeson

Lisa Leeson, the wife of the dis-graced former Barings trader Nick Leeson, has landed a joh as a stewardess with Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic air-

Mrs Leeson, 27, who lives with her parents at West Kingsdown in Kent, is due to begin her training as a junior flight attendant next month.

Announcing its new appointment yesterday, Virgin Atlantic said that Mrs Leeson's successful application was "based on her own merits, personality and skills".

It said that initially, she will fly on trans-Atlantic routes and. as with all new Virgin Atlantic Airways cabin crew, needs to complete six months service before qualifying for conces-sionary Virgin Atlantic flights and one year before receiving discounts on other carriers".

At the time of her application it was believed Mrs Leeson wanted to become a stewardess so as to he able to make more regular and cheaper trips to Singapore to visit ber husband.

Speaking at the Elizabeth Tea Rooms in Maidstone, Kent. where she has worked as a part-time waitress since returning to England a year ago, Mrs Leeson said she has yet to inform her husband, who is in prison in Singapore, about her new job. "He knows that I have applied for a job but I only found out yesterday myself so I've yet to tell him.

I will be sorry to leave here and I'm sure there'll be tears when I leave," she joked. " don't know anything about a leaving do, but I'm sure we'll be having a leaving cuppa."

Bid to end feud over parking

Senior officers were hoping for "constructive dialogue" with community leaders yesterday after police had been stoned by youths in a long-running feud

over parking restrictions.

Trouble flared in Alum Rock Road, in the Saltley area of Birmingham, on Tuesday night after the arrest earlier in the day of three men who allegedly intervened as an officer issued a fixed-penalty parking ticket. More than 200 Asian youths

surrounded the city's Digbeth police station, and later walked through the streets throwing missiles at police and stoning huses and passing vehicles. One officer suffered minor injuries.

A 20-year-old man has been charged with assaulting a police officer and affray and was due to appear before magistrates. Officers, led by Superintendent Roger Conway, met six community leaders and coun-

cillors in the predominantly Asian neighbourhood in a hid to resolve the problem Divisional Commander Colin Macdonald said: "We will be talking about the reasons behind

the events and how they can he

resolved. We are hoping to

have a constructive dialogue



Under siege: Riot police regroup outside a shattered shop front on Birmingham's Alum Rock Road on Tuesday evening

Police cleared of blame for riots

JASON BENNETTO

with the community.

Crime Correspondent

An investigation into last year's Bradford riots, which caused more than £1m worth of damage, has cleared the police of any wrongdoing despite a series of complaints from sections of the city's Asian community.

The Police Complaints Authority announced yesterday that allegations of police misconduct during the three days of disturbances were "without foundation".

Despite the findings, at least two of the 19 people who made an official complaint, mainly inFor three nights last summer

several hundred Asian youths beld running street battles with police in which petrol bombs, hricks and bottles were thrown. The trouble bad apparently started after the arrests of two youths for allegedly obstructing, a footpath while playing football. Forty-one people were ar-rested after the disturbances.

The PCA, which oversaw an investigation by officers from the West Midlands police force, said it had decided that no officers would be disciplined. One officer involved in the first arvolving allegations of assault and unlawful arrest, are to take training after the PCA said be

Nineteen complaints were

examined, of which eight were dropped and two were not investigated. One case involved an Asian woman who said she and ber haby had been jostled by police and ber clothes torn. PCA member Caroline

Mitchell said: "The allegations which were made were very serious and the public concern is understandable and widespread, but unjustifiable public disorder resulted. It is our conclusion that these allegations were without foundation."

Ms Mitchell stressed that the PCA placed particular emphasis on independent wit-

civil action against the West had used the wrong powers to detain a suspect.

had used the wrong powers to nesses and medical and forential force.

had used the wrong powers to nesses and medical and forential force.

had used the wrong powers to nesses and medical and forential force. no question of a cover up - we are not frightened to take ac-

> PCA inquiries have been consistently attacked over the years for not being objective because they rely on police officers to investigate other officers.

> Aurangzeb Ighal, solicitor for two of the Asian youths who made complaints, said that his clients were laking civil action. Javed Iqbal, 20, and a juvenile who cannot be named, appeared before Bradford magistrates last September charged with threatening behaviour and

assault. Both were cleared. Mr Iqbal said the decision

were not without foundation. nity's frustration.

"The PCA should have gone much further, but at least this proves it was not a complete whitewash and I do not think there will be a backlash from the community." he said.

Mohammed Ajeeb, a local councillor and former mayor of the Bradford, said the report was disappointing. "It's not a question of anyone shouldering the blame; it's a question of per-ception," he said. "There is a belief that when the police deal with ethnic minorities they are not fair, and that perception has

not changed." Mr Ajeeb insisted that there of the family and community.

would not be a backlash against the police, despite the commu-

Norman Bettison, the Assistant Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police, said the force was pleased that officers were not being held responsible for "the action of troublemakers".

He added: "Many police officers felt personally saddened that their good work suffered setbacks as a result of the disturbances. They view it as an isolated and shocking incident." Among the explanations giv-

en for the riots are the high level of unemployment among male Asians, poor education, and the breakdown in influence

Traffic police stop chief at 90mph

A police chief was stopped by his own officers after they clocked him speeding down a

motorway at 90mph. Cambridgeshire Chief Constable Ben Gunn was issued with a fixed penalty notice after being stopped by traffic of-ficers on the M11 on Saturday. In a statement yesterday Mr Gunn, secretary of the Associ-

ation of Chief Police Officers'. terrorism committee, said; "I naturally very much regret that a lapse of concentration resulted in me exceeding the speed limit. I was correctly reported for the offence. I have informed the police authority." A police spokesman said that

Mr Gunn was stopped at 8.50am while driving his Rover 620 south on the Cambridge shire stretch of the M11, which has a 70mph limit. Mr Gunn was off-duty and pulled over when signalled to do so.

Being issued with a fixed penalty notice obliged Mr Gunn to pay a fine. in the region of £30 to £40. His licence will be endorsed with three points.

The incident is to be discussed at the next month's Camhridge police authority meeting. Mr Gunn, 52, was appointed Chief Constable in January. 1994 after a time as deputy.

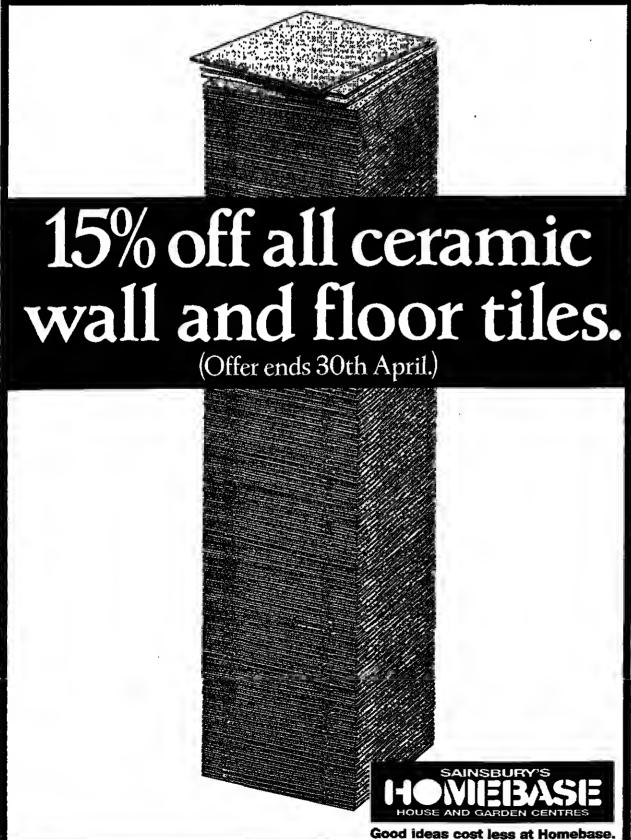
Councillor Ed Murphy. Labour spokesman on the anthority, said the incident had to be kept in proportion. "My opinion is that it shouldn't endanger his position. It's an un-fortunate incident, but it does clearly demonstrate the police officers in Cambridgeshire are acting without favour."



Galactic

stars shoc

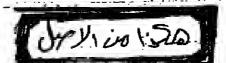
Mr Gunn: Regrets lapse



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Sound waves clue to the rotation of the sun

Astronomy Conference: The Sun's 'breathing' has been captured by science

The Sun is ringing like a celes-tial bell and, by "listening" to the sound reverberating through it, scientists from Birmingham University believe that its core may be rotating more slowly than it did a decade ago.

At the National Astronomy Meeting in Liverpool yesterday, Dr Yvonne Elsworth sald that information about the stellar interior came from listening to the Sun in "hreathing mode" where the surface of the whole star moves in and out, rather as someone's chest expands and contracts as they inhale and

Researchers had once be-I lieved that the core of the Sun rotated twice or three times as fast as the outer surface layers, Dr Elsworth said, but observations of the sound-waves resonating within the Sun showed that the interior was in step with the surface.

Using BiSON, the Birming-ham Solar Oscillation Network, the researchers can measure how the surface of the Sun moves in and out to a precision of one part in a hundred billion.

Ironically, none of the measuring instruments are located in Britain. "The weather is not good enough in Britain." Dr Elsworth said. "Our brightest day is appalling.

The BiSON network consists of six instruments around the world: in Tenerife; Sonth Africa; Western and Eastern Australia; Chile and California. "Chile is brilliant," Dr Elsworth

the Sun should never set on it, but in practice, Dr Elsworth said, the researchers get measurements for about 80 per cent of the time.

According to Dr Bili Chap-lin, one of Dr Elsworth's colleagues in the Department of Physics and Space Science at the University, the researchers have been re-analysing the good quality data recorded since

"We have found that perhaps there may be tentative evi-dence for the core rotation rate having decreased since

Although there is a wellknown 11-year solar cycle linked among other things to sun-spot activity, there is also a less well known 22-year cycle in magnetic activity in the Sun and any decrease in the core rotation rate may be linked with this, Dr Chaplin speculated.

The sun as a whole is spinning much more slowly than younger stars are known to do, and it is thought that the braking mechanism is a form of magnetic drag connected with the stream of charged sub-atomic particles

being ejected in the solar wind. Dr Chaplin stressed, however, that the data were only revealing hints of a core slowdown. "We need more data. You need good coverage to beyond the year 2000," he

Dr Chaplin believes the re-sults from BiSON may also help solve the loog-standing "solar neutrino problem" - experiments on earth are detecting only about a third of the cur en route to Earth as the





MINDEPENDENT Gazing into the beginning of time

Back to the future: How the Independent broke the

Hubble vision shapes up

Astronomers believe they are closer to understanding the weird shapes of distant galaxies pool yesterday that a large proportion of the objects in the Hubble deep field survey - the revealed earlier this year in a picture of the uttermost limits of the visible universe taken by the Hubble space telescope, writes Tom Wilkie.

The photographs (left) show two of the different types pic-tured by Hubble – the puzzling irregular objects at the left, with spiral galaxies (broadly similar to our own Milky Way)

at the right.
Professor Richard Ellis, of the Institute of Astronomy at Cambridge, told the National Astronomy meeting in Liver-

more distant and therefore "younger" galaxies - bore little resemblance to closer galaxies. Astronomers are debating, he said, as to whether the furthest images might be only fragments

of galaxies coming together -many of the irregular lumps may be part of a merging process. Most of the distant galaxies appear knotty in shape and are involved in star formation. The Hubble pictures are telling astronomers that galaxy formation is a continuous process, Pro-

said. quantity of a particularly exotIn principle, BiSON is rather ic sub-nuclear particle, the neulike the British Empire and trino, that nuclear theory would served types of neutrino. Galactic collisions send stars shooting into space

TOM WILKIE

In the constellation of Fornax - the aptly named "furnace" some 60 million light years above the southern skies, millions of stars are being torn from teristic of the Milky Way. The expelled into the emptiness of intergalactic space as a result of

the collision of galaxies.

Dr Tom Theuns, from the Department of Astrophysics at Oxford University, said that the stars were being tugged into the emptiness of space as a result of the tidal forces exerted by the gravitational pull of galaxies in collision.

Once released, the stars were free to wander within an area 3 million light years across. In comparison, our galaxy, the

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Milky Way, is a mere 60,000 lonely stars. However, the light years across.

Fornax is a cluster of about 200 galaxies. Many of them are be the result of the tidal forces from past collisions altering the pristine spiral shape of the galaxies, Dr Theuns said.

Computer simulations of the dynamics of colliding galaxies had predicted that, in addition to altering the galactic mor-phology, the collision should produce "debris" in the shape

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of lonely extra-galactic stars.

From the evidence of their shape, Dr Theuns believed that Fornax would be a good place to look for evidence of these

galaxy is so distant that it is impossible to observe individual stars even with the most powerful of telescopes. Instead he looked for patterns betraying the presence of "planetary neb-ulae" in the spectrum of the light coming from the cluster of galaxies. In our Milky Way there are about ten thousand planetary nuclei scattered among a hundred billion stars so Dr Theuns knew if he found

predict. BiSON's results show

that we understand solar physics

fairly well, Dr Chaplin said, so

the "loss" of neutrinos must oc-

it would indicate there must be millions of other stars there too. He used the European Southern Observatory's New Technology Telescope in the Chilean Andes to search for isolated planetary nebulae, and

found "a couple of candidates".

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PAGERS H MONTH INE RENI

Marketing and the second secon

politics

Labour to bring 'City | 1 Hall' chief to London

COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

Labour leaders yesterday said they were keeping alive the idea of an American-style elected mayor for London as part of plans to create a directly elected strategic authority for the capital.

Tony Blair recently put for-ward the idea of an elected may-or for London. But there were anxieties that if the mayor's role was too powerful - like that portrayed by Al Pacino in the film City Hall - it would nullify the purpose of the new elected authority for Loodon.

Doubts about Labour's commitment to ao elected mayor were raised by the equivocal tone of a policy document for London published yesterday, which highlighted some of the disadvantages. "Such an approach would be quite oew in Britain, changing the role of the elected assembly and its individual members and leaving one person in a much more powerful position than has been customary." it said,

Rather than proposing the elected mayor, the paper - .1 voice for London - invited comments before coming to a firm conclusion. But Frank Dobson, the shadow Environment Secretary, denied Labour had backtracked on the idea. He said the proposal for an elected mayor "was put forward by the leader of the Labour Party with my full knowledge and

Party sources indicated that Labour remains keen on the idea of an elected mayor. The taking away that functidea was first raised by Michael the Home Secretary.

ACINO ... AT HIS SPELLEHIDING BEST

A DESTRUCTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE STATE O

AL PACING JOHN CUSACK BRIDGET FONDS

Heseltine as Secretary of State for the Environment but he was forced to drop it when Tory MPs complained that Labour mayors would usurp their powers in Tory constituencies.

Labour strategists believe Baroness Thatcher's destruction of the former GLC has left a need for a strategic authority for London, which the public recognise. That would make the idea of a directly elected Greater London Authority popular, in spite of any misgivings about the former GLC.

Mr Dobson made it clear that Labour would oot try to recreate the former GLC, with its massive headquarters on the south bank of the Thames.

The new authority would be smaller, possibly only having 74 elected members - one from each parliamentary constituency - a limited staff of officials. and would not take responsibility for day-to-day functions, such as housing and parks and gardens, that it did when Ken Livingstone was leader. It would have no powers to levy direct taxes, but would take finance from the bor-

oughs and central Government. The Greater Loodon Authority would take over strategic powers from the London boroughs for transport planning, the environment, fire and civil emergencies, and economic development. It may be given oversight of the London ambulance service, described by Nick Raynsford, the Labour spokesman on London, as "a

It would also have authority over the Metropolitan Police, taking away that function from



Eve of poll: Gordon Brown, shadow Chancellor, at Labour's Tamworth headquarters yesterday Photograph: Newsteam

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Tories feel chill in Tamworth

COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

Labour campaigners were fore-casting a swing to Labour in double figures today to win the by-election in Staffordshire South-East and cut John Major's Commons' majority to a perilous single vote.

Labour needs a swing of 6.3 per cent to win the Tory seat in today's poll, which is taking place almost four years to the day since Mr Major was elected to office, against all the odds, on a

late surge of Tory support.
The Tory candidate, Jimmy
James, was yesterday putting in
a last effort to win back the wavering Tory voters by pumping the flesh in Tamworth market, where a week ago Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, forecast that he would be the first beneficiary of the "feelgood factor".

Mr James was pinning his hopes on the late surge that carried Mr Major in. He was a party worker at two previous Tory by-election defeats — at Littleborough and Saddleworth and Dudley West — hut said the mood was better this time.

"The atmosphere is totally different. There was a lot of bit-terness at Dudley ... At the heginning of the campaign in

Staffordshire South-East, people were saying we are not very happy with the Government's policy, and we are not sure how we are going to vote. More recently, they have been saying. We think things are getting better; we're not entirely

happy — but we will give you the benefit of the doubt."

However, there was confu-sion in the Tory camp over possible excuses for the expected defeat. Mr James was hedging his bets by insisting that the seat where the Tories are defending a majority of 7,192 after the death of former whip Sir David Lightbown, is, in his view, a Tory marginal. It is not Tory heart-land, he said.

But Mr Clarke last week left no room for excuses tonight by saying that he only had to look at Tamworth to see it was the sort of seat which ought to vote Conservative.

Labour is keen to play up the importance of the result, saying if the party can win by a double-figure swing tonight, it is well on the way to victory in the

general election. □ Staffordshire South-East 1992 general election: Con 29,180; Lab 21,988; Lib Dem 5,540; SDP 895. Con majority 7,192. Electorate 70.199.

"Find them for less locally & we'll refund DOUBLE THE MICHAEL CASEY: B&Q LONGSTONE Smooth Paving Slab Natural, buff or red. WAS 89p 75P each

Councils to be cash competitive

City Hall: Labour wants to avoid life Imitating art

COLIN BROWN

A £250m pilot scheme for local authorities to compete for cash for capital projects, including schools and roads, is to be given the go-ahead by the Environment Secretary John Gummer.

Local authorities made it clear in consultation which ended in the past few days that they were opposed in principle to the extension of the concept of "capital challenge" contests, the brain-child of Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, when he was Environment Secretary.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, fought streo-uously against the competition for funds being applied to schools. A leaked document disclosed that she was fighting Mr Heseltine's initiative, but on 30 January, the DoE aonounced it was going ahead with the consultation on the plan.

While that represented a partial defeat for the Education Secretary, she has still oot conceded that schools will be open

Chris Patten, the Governor of

Hong Kong, last night cooled

speculation he may he plan-ning a comeback to Westminster

politics next year, after the hand-

Mr Patten, who speot more than an hour with the Prime

Minister in talks at Downing Street, was asked if the subject

arose between the two. He replied: "No. That was a

negative no, rather than a pos-

itive no. The subject of my fu-

ture didn't arise this afternoon, and I don't make a point of coming back to Loodoo and

talking to the Prime Minister or

the Far East last month, Mr Pat-

Party chairman credited with

During John Major's visit to

others about my future."

over of the colony to China.

to hids for challenge money. It is likely that she will resist any attempt to involve schools.

Local authorities also warned the Government that in addition to their general misgivings, the proposed pilot for a 12-month period was too short. Mr Gummer is expected to heed their warnings when he makes the announcement next month, by extending the scheme beyond a year. He may also amend it to increase the money available.

Under the plan, about £250m will he taken from the £3.5bn cormally give to local authorities in spending approvals for capital projects each year, and offered to the best hids.

Mr Heseltine's aim is to persuade authorities to sharpen up their thinking in order to win the money. He believes it leads to a spin-off in projects among the losers, but local councils complain that it is a waste of time and effort for those who fail to win.

Labour is committed to abolishing the competitions for funds, making the pilot scheme in April 1997 an academic exercise, if it wins the election.

general election victory - fuelled

reports he may be looking for a key Cabinet role if the Tories

win a fifth consecutive term.

present is that the cricket

Patten plays down talk

of a Westminster return

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masterminding the party's last season is about to start."

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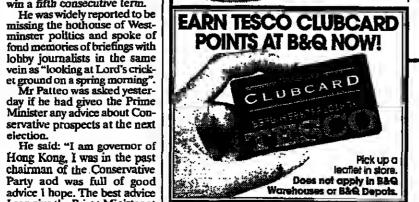
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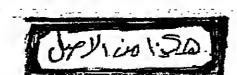


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international

Forces inquiry turns to farce in Canada

HUGH WINSOR . Ottawa

ar in the state of

What started as an inquiry into how a handful of low-ranking Canadian soldiers on peace-keeping duties in Somalia beat and tortured a teenage prisoner to death three years ago has turned into a farce in which all 100,000 military and civilian personnel in the Canadian Armed Forces were ordered to devote 24 hours this week to a futile search for missing documents and computer tapes.

All military planes were grounded, all weapons were downed, and all non-essential operations were suspended on orders from the Chief of Defence Staff, General Jean Boyle, after the head of a civilian inquiry reported that several crucial communications logs covering the activities of the Canadian Airborne Regiment in Somalia were missing. It also appeared that top-secret computer tapes at National Defence headquarters covering the same period had been erased.

The missing records and tapes pointed to an attempt at a high-level cover-up of the cireumstances surrounding the killing of the teenager and an-

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other shooting incident during the Somalia mission in March

These events have turned into a major embarrassment for Canada, which claims to have originated the idea of United Nations peace-keeping following the Anglo-French invasion of the Suez Canal zone in 1956, and which has participated in most UN peace-keeping operations since.

But the senior officers in the Canadian Armed Forces were looking even more like the gang who couldn't shnot straight yesterday when the day spent pawing through filing cabinets produced no missing files and Canadian media had a field day with stories and pictures of military personnel involved in a treasure hunt. Even military chaplains and

a civilian barber working at defence headquarters were asked to go through their files hut an exception was made for the approximately 1,000 soldiers on duty around Coralici in

Several computer technicians have added to the embarrassment by casting doubt on the theory about erasures, claiming the apparent gaps might have

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been caused by faulty programming. "If silly Keystone Cops type of things like this are going to carry on, it's time we got an investigation that brings nut the truth," said one critic

General Boyle's house-cleaning order has been widely seen as an effort at damage control, to divert attention from accusations that he and other senior officers knew about the coverup and had approved nf it.

A corporal and two privates have already been convicted in military court of offences connected with the torture and beating to death of the teenager. But the judicial inquiry is looking into the broader ques-tion of the training and prepa-ration of the Airborne regiment for the Somalia assignment, given that it was known to have discipline problems and also into what happened at defence headquarters when senior officers first learned of the torture

death and another shooting. A colonel who is now facing court-martial for destroying nr altering some of the relevant documents has said his seniors, including General Boyle, knew of the attempted cover-up and

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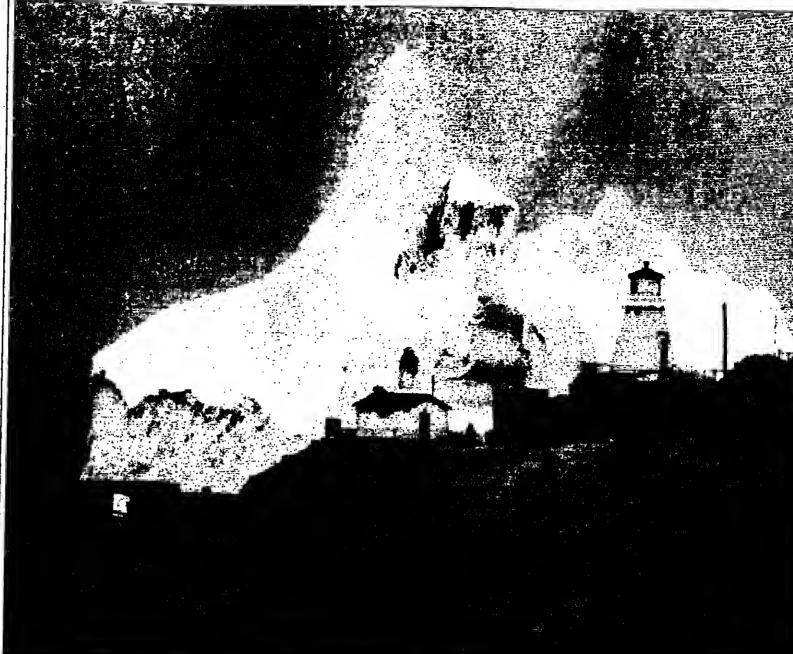
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Cold front: A huge drifting iceberg looms over Fort Amherst, in the narrows of St John's Harbour, Newfoundland Photograph: Jonathan Hayward

Britons dodge bullets to reach airlift from Liberia

CLAUDIA MCELROY Reuters

Freetown — Civilians fleeing the fighting in Liberia's embattled capital, Monrovia, yesterday described how they had dodged death during a four-day ordeal before helicopters airlifted them to safety.

The whole town was on the move. Thousands of refugees were on the streets and we could hear mortars and heavy artillery," said a Briton, David Wood-Roberts, who works for a British telecommunications company. "We grabbed all we could. There was danger from stray hullets whizzing every-

while others left on a US airlift. "There was shooting every-

where. Women were crying.

We were bracing ourselves to be American husinessman, Roh shot," said another Briton, Wendy White.

The fighting, triggered by efforts to arrest a warlord on charges of murder on Saturday, brought fears of a return to the full-scale civil war, which in six absolutely insane." years has killed more than 150,000 people. Until last weekend, the capital, patrolled by West African peace-keepers, was something of a safe

Ms White, Mr Wood-Roberts and other evacuees said there was widespread looting and that terrified civilians had fled for their lives or had hid in their homes. "All the electrical shops and supermarkets in the city centre were looted and all pick-Some civilians got out on a up trucks were taken to trans-UN helicopter on Monday port the stolen goods." Mr port the stolen goods," Mr Wood-Roberts said.

"We were very fortunate to get out with our lives," said an

Lewis, who came out on the US helicopter airlift. "The first rebel faction came through. They continued to loot and then people started getting killed." he added. "It was

He and his wife were among 104 Americans and other foreign nationals ferried out of the city after the US airlift

Mr White and Mr Wood-Roberts said they heard reports of foreigners laying on floors in their homes to escape stray bullets. In one compound, wives hid in wardrobes from gunmen who withdrew after their husbands paid them to go

Mr White and Mr Wood-Roberts were among foreigners in a hotel in the Sinkor district where the fighting began on Saturday, after the council of free to leave but afraid to venstate ordered Roosevelt Johnson's arrest on charges of murder, after a militia clash.

Charles Taylor, the man who launched the civil war in 1989. and a rival faction leader. Alhaji Kromah, a fellow council member, laid siege to Johnson's home, triggering the clashes.

Ghanaians from the West rushed Mr White and Mr Wood-Roberts to a UN base in a 12-mile dash by car.

A fragile truce held in Monrovia yesterday and hundreds of fugitive eivilians defied the sporadic shooting and prowling militia fighters to try to reach

Civilians in the city centre barracks, where Johnson was

ture out. They said about 30 West African peace-keepers held hostage had been freed but Police and militiamen loyal to 36 Lebanese civilians had not.

Under Tuesday night's ccasefire agreement. Johnson agreed to release several hundred civilians and peace-keepers being held hostage by his forces. "People want to leave but

they are still concerned about their personal safety outside the barracks," Mark Johnson, one of several thousand civilians inside, said by telephone. Witnesses said hundreds of

the 15,000 people sheltering in a US embassy annexe had left, saying that if they had to die they preferred to die at home.

Intensive negotiations took place among the peace-keepers, faction leaders and the council holed up with fighters from his of state to build on the cease-Krahn tribe, said they were fire agreement.

IN BRIEF

Jordanian dissident on hunger strike

Beirut - Laith Shubeilat, the Jordanian trade unionist and opponent of the Middle East peace accords, has gone on hunger strike, writes Robert Fisk. He is in prison serving a three-year sentence for slandering King Husain and Queen Noor. Shubeilat's sentence was imposed after he condemned Queen Noor for weeping at Yitzhak Rabin's funeral while offering no condolences to the family of a Palestinian radical assassinated by the Israelis. His appeal will be heard within two weeks. He says he has been placed in solitary confinement and that three plain-clothes security men remain in his cell day and night, preventing him from talking to other prisoners.

Bahrain arrests three for arson

Manama — Bahrain has arrested three people suspected of set-ting shops ablaze in the capital this week, the Gulf News Agency reported yesterday. Bahrain had said that fires broke out in three different shops on Sunday caused by explosives in boobytrapped cigarette packets.

China marks new frontiers

Peking — China set a boundary between its far western regions of Xinjiang and Tibet as a step toward settling all border disputes among its 29 provinces and large cities. The Xinhua News Agency said there have been more than 1,000 boundary disputes since the Communists came to power m 1949.

Romania targets cigarette smuggler

Bucharest — Romanian police accused a Syrian of evading more than \$13m (£8m) in taxes and duties. Zaher Iskandarani, who studied in Romania in the Communist era, "imported neither more nor less than 287,000 cases of cigarettes and 600 tons of coffee in something more than one year," said a spokesman. Reuter

Lithuanian election called

Vilnius — Lithuania's President, Algirdas Brazauskas, has called parliamentary elections in the Baltic state for 20 October, his office said yesterday.

Finns take the metal road Helsinki - Cellists from Finland's Sibelius Academy said yes-

terday they plan to make a record of hits by a heavy metal band, Metallica. The musicians believe hits like Enter Sandman have enough depyh for an all-cello sound, a spokesman said. Reuter

Polish PM launches Auschwitz inquiry

Warsaw — Poland's Prime Minister, Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz. said he had ordered an inquiry into a local governor's decision to let a right-wing group stage a march at Auschwitz. The governor was summoned to Warsaw yesterday to explain. Reuter

HK plugs a worrying leak

Hnng Kong — Customs officers seized more than 6,600 condoms after tests showed they might leak. Laboratory tests showed one in 12 of the Malaysian-made Romantic Rocket and Magic Veil Super Sensitive brands leaked, a customs official said. Reuter

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international

Protests sour China's \$1.7bn Airbus deal

MARY DEJEVSKY

An Airbus cootract worth up to \$1.7bo (£1.1bn), a vociferous protest by several thousand people and acerbic cartoons and newspaper editorials marked the start yesterday of a controversial visit to France by the Chi-

oese prime minister. Li Peng. Mr Li's four day stay is all that remains of what had been planned as a three-nation European tour. The visit, which was curtailed but not cancelled, is the first by a Chinese head of government for 12 years and only the second by a Chinese leader since the Tiananmeo Square killings seven years ago.

Mr Li's reputation as the man largely responsible for ordering the army attack on Tiananmen makes him a difficult visitor in the West and there has been a crescendo of protest in France, culminating in yesterday's protest and march.

Security considerations have dictated that for his three days in Paris, Mr Li is being confined

riot police, as activists from Amnesty International found esterday when they tried to unfurl a giant protest banner across the Champs Elysées.

For France's human rights groups, Mr Li's visit is a shameful example of how France's right-wing government, and President Chirac in particular, is prepared to sacrifice principle to the hope of financial advantage. They are joined by opposition MPs, who claim that the late president François Mitterrand was tougher oo China's human rights record than Mr Chirac appears to be, and by several trade unions, who object to violation of trade unioo rights in China (but also to the potential competitioo from

cheap Chinese labour). This united front has forced the government on to the defensive. Yesterday evening, as the only authorised demoostratioo was gathering haif a mile away, the French prime minister, Alain Juppé, went to meet Mr Li at the foreign ministry rather than receiving him at his official residence. The

VAT WILL BE CHARGED AT 17.5%. PRESIDENT STEED OF ACTUAL OF PURPOSES OF ACTUAL OF PURPOSES OF THE DESCRIPTION OF THE DESCRIPTION

idence. So are large reserves of early in the visit also suggested into notice, as activists from a move to demonstrate a practical benefit from Mr Li's presence. Mr Li is to visit the Airbus factory at Toulouse on Saturday.

Government ministers have justified the visit as a chance for France to start catching up on its European partners, the US and Japan, in the race to win a stake in the Chinese market, Handicapped partly by existing defence contracts with Taiwan, France is only the 11th largest exporter to China worldwide, with 1.7 per cent of the market.

Under the agreement signed yesterday, China will buy 10 A320 Airbuses, with the possibility of another 30, and three A340s. If the whole deal comes to fruition, it is the higgest contract China has awarded to a European aircraft builder.

Questions were being asked about the value of other agreements. A contract due to be signed for the establishment of a Citroen plant in Wuhan is to be financed largely with French credits. In addition, a number of hoped-for deals on gas distribution, electric cables and



Paris match: Protesters from the human rights group Amnesty internations

Andreotti trial put on hold until after election

ANDREW GUMBEL

After more than six months of painfully slow progress in the Mana trial of Giulio Andreotti, Italy's most prominent postwar politician, a Palermo court yesterday decided to scrap the proceedings altogether and start afresh on 15 May because of the prolonged illness of one of the presiding judges.

The decision was an emhar-

rassing setback to what was supposed to be Italy's "trial of the century". It reinforced a growing impression that the charges against Mr Andreotti are so explosive that no court will ever have the courage to reach a verdict.

The trial was rescheduled ostensibly as the result of bad luck. Vincenzina Massa, picked to sit on the president's bench as one of two deputy judges, is suffering from an eye infection and has been involved in a serious car crash. Her absence has halted proceedings since early January.

But the procrastmation pre-dated Judge Massa's illness. From the start, hearings took place only every fortnight, and focused mostly on points of procedure. Mr Andreotti, who is accused of being Cosa Nostra's political godfather in Rome, says he wants to clear his name as quickly as possible. But even the most optimistic forecasts suggest he will have to wait until the end of the decade for a final verdict, by which time he

will be over 80.

The man who remained in government uninterrupted for 46 years and served as prime minister seven times also faces a second trial, doe to start today, for the murder of an investigative journalist, Mino Pecorelli, in 1979. But this trial also is expected to be postponed as soon as it opens because one of Mr Andreotti's co-defendants, a former senior matioso turned informant, Gaetano Badalamenti, says he is needed for the next few weeks as a witness at other trials in the United States.

The growing impression among Mafia experts is that both prosecutors and witnesses are waiting until after Italy's general election on 21 April to see whether the political cli-mate, always a crucial factor in

a country where organised crime and the state have formed unholy alliances in the past, will permit them to act as freely as they would wish.

A victory for the centre-right, whose leader, Silvio Berlusconi, has declared war on large swathes of the Italian magis trature in retaliation for corruption charges brought against him in Milan, is likely to weaken the judiciary.

This, in turn, may unnerve Mafia informants who need to be sure their testimony will stick. Otherwise they risk losing their lives and those of their

families in revenge killings.

A victory for the centre-left,
oo the other hand, could streogthen the hand of the prosecutors and breathe new life into both trials against Mr Andreotti. But only if it is accompanied by a vigorous anti-Mafia policy in Sicily and the rest of southern Italy.

Iran

Turk

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Tensioo over the issue has been illustrated this week by a political row over another Mafia trial, in which a former police chief of Palermo, later



Andreotti: May be over 80 by time verdict is reached

promoted to a senior position in the secret services, was sentenced to 10 years in jail for collusion with Cosa Nostra last weekend.

Berlusconi supporters, showing scant respect for the independence of the judiciary, denounced the sentence as a witch-hunt. The head of the parliamentary anti-Mafia com-mission, a Berlusconi acolyte, Tiziana Parenti, said: "These are judgemeots against history, typical of Nazi regimes." The Palermo prosecutor's office described this accusation as "gravely offensive".

US agency to sue Mitsubishi over sex harassment

JOHN CARLIN Washington

Mitsubishi, the Japanese car giant, faces what could prove to be the most expensive sexual harassment suit in US history following a decision by a government agency to file charges oo behalf of hundreds of women employed at a manufacturing plant in Normal.

The Equal Employment Op-portunity Commission (EEOC) said that as many as 700 womeo had been subjected to systematic sexual abuse over a six-year period. If the commission succeeds in proving the case each of the women could receive up to \$300,000 (£200,000) in

The lawsuit says that womeo at the plant were subjected to a "hostile and abusive work eovironment": male employees had groped and fondled the breasts, buttocks and genitals of female assembly line workers: and the womeo had to endure obscene remarks and lewd graffiti on the factory walls. Officials said, without providing details, that in one instance an air hose had been "used" on the genitals of a female worker.

Some of the hundreds of women who had been victimised had resigned to avoid further humiliation, according to the EEOC.

"This case should send the

stroog message that sexual harassment in the workplace, whether in office suites or on the assembly line floor, will oot be tolerated - especially on the outrageous scale that we see here," said Paul Igasaki, vice-chairman of the EEOC.

Another commission official observed that the pattern of ahuse at the Mitsubishi plant in Normal could oot have flourished "without the knowledge and consect, either explicit or implicit, of the management.

Mitsubishi denied the charges, however. "If we are surprised and horrified at anything," said Gary Shultz, vice-president of Mitsuhishi's Normal subsidiary, "it'a the manner that this has been brought to the public's attention."

The Chicago Sun-Times reported yesterday that women at the plant held contradictory positions on the allegations. One told the oewspaper that it had become routine for women to be "touched" and "called certain names". Another, however, said that supervisors had dealt effectively with complaints of sexual harassment.

Last year Del Laboratories of

New York paid out a record \$1.85m to settle a sexual harassment suit brought against the company's chief executive. EEOC officials said that if they won the case against Mitsubishi end up paying substantially

Germans who fake illness

Bonn (AP) — German workers stay home sick up to six weeks a year and still collect their normal wages, sometimes more. The government says too many people are abusing this generosity by faking illness.

Experts began a series of meetings with the government yesterday to consider reducing sick-pay benefits. The govern-

global ecocomy and combat unemployment, at its highest levels since the Second World War. Germans miss work through illness an average of annually, says the Federation of





many's efforts to compete in the two weeks each year, costing companies 60bn marks (£27bn)

ment says the costs hinder Ger-

Grave reunites lovers killed by Bosnia's tribal passions

EMMA DALY Sarajevo

dreotti

F Erreic

Profes and

The young lovers whose front line murder came to symbolise the madness of the war waged m Bosnia for ethnic purity, were buried together in Sarajevo yesterday, fulfilling the hopes of their parents, three

years on. Admira Ismic was a Muslim and Bosko Brkic was a Serb. His father was dead and his family was in Serbia but he stayed in Sarajevo with Admira for the first year of the war, until she agreed that the future lay in a new life abroad.

In May 1993, they set off to cross the treacherous front line, believing that they had paid enough money to guar-antee their safety from sol-diers on both sides of the line.

But as they crossed the desolate stretch of tarmac in no man's land, surrounded by gutted buildings full of snipers, the two lovers, together since the age of 17, were met with a bail gunfire. Bosko fell first and Admira crawled towards him for her last embrace.



Doomed lovers: Admira and Bosko whose romance defied their race loyalties; the couple lying dead in sniper alley; Admira's mother, Neri, at their new grave yesterday For eight days the warring armies argued over who was to hlame. Meanwhile, the

lovers' bodies lay entwined on

pusbed through the tarmac One morning they were gone. Bosnian Serb soldiers said they bad rescued the bodies: but Muslim prisoners of war later said that the Serbs had sent them out instead to fetch

"If to live means to hope, then there is a little hope for me to bury them together, as they lived togetber," Admira's father. Zijah, said at the time.

the sunlit street, as weeds The first joint funcral, at a Serbian cemetery in Lukavica. just outside Sarajevo, was attended by Bosko's mother, Rada. Yesterday, friends and relatives gathered in the Lion cemetery on a spring day to pay their final farewells.

"If I could have. I would have organised music and trumpets. because I am so joyful to have returned them here," Zijah Ismic said.

He stepped up to the open grave and hurled in the first bandful of earth. Friends and family followed suit. The crowd stood silently as the four gravediggers covered the wooden coffins, which lay side by

Mourners stepped forward to lay wreaths of bright daffodils and red carnations, while Mr Ismic led his family up the path, away from the valley, where a football pitch is obscured by war graves and where Nato soldiers

camp in what is left of the Zetra Olympic skating stadium. Admira's mother, Nera, paused to embrace the wooden grave markers, as her tears

The gravediggers sat nearby. And they also wept. They had performed the same task for hundreds of families throughout the war, in daylight under mortar fire, or at night, to hinder the snipers, but this

"A funeral is a funeral but this was a little more difficult," Ivan Maric said. "It's very sad because they were

was a harder task.

But at 25, the two were older than many of the other war victims buried in the Lion

cemetery. Youth alone cannot

To the people of Sarajevo and to the outside world, the journalists and film-makers who wanted to retell the story, the love of Admira and Bosko was a symbol of the normality of life in Sarajevo before the

mythology of the conflict.

war, when inter-ethnic unions were common. And their deaths personified the madness and the evil of those who would put such ties asunder. But what

of their reburial? These should be the last war victims to he buried here – it must never happen again." Mr Maric said. It was a very Saraievan affair - a Muslim and a Serb buried by a Croat, Mr

Bosko's family, however, was absent, because Admira's family was not able to contact Bosko's relatives across the former front line. His mother had earlier agreed through friends to the couple's ex-bumation and their reburial in Sarajevo. Her only stipulation was that they should occupy the same grave.

"Their death was a mes-sage." Mr Ismic said. They explain their place in the were born the same year, they were living together, they died together. I just continued what they left behind. I respected their message.

It is far from clear that postwar Bosnia will be able to do

Iran beats Turkey to draw on expulsions

AUGH POPE

A brazen Iran toughed it out against Turkey yesterday, turning a row over Tehran's links to a murderous Islamist gang in Istanbul into a diplomatic titfor-tat and a debate over Turkey's links with Israel.

Tehran launched a pre-emptive strike when a senior Turkish official visiting Tehran, Ali Tuygan, quietly asked Iran on Tuesday to withdraw four Iranian diplomats implicated last month by a Islamist hitman.

Reacting with speed, Iranian and accused four Turkish political attachés of spying, illegal and immoral activities and conspiring against the

A visibly angry spokesman for the Turkish foreign ministry yesterday denied the accusations and said Turkey had recalled the four diplomats "for their security". If Iran did not recall its own four they would be expelled, be said.

Mr Tuygan had presented a dossier of Iranian links to a series of terrorist killings and kidnaps in Turkey to Iranian officials, but foreign minister Ali Akbar Velayati chose to ignore it in a statement.

Instead, Mr Velayati tried to turn the dehate into one about Turkey's Middle East policy after it signed a military co-operation agreement with Israel in February.

"Iran is concerned over

providing any facility to the Zionist regime on the grounds that such concessions are against the vital interests of the Islamic world and the region,"

Nothing could be more calculated to anger Turkey than this assumption that Shia Muslim Iran could speak for the Islamic world, while Turkey, which has a nominally secular government for its 65 million mainly Sunni Muslim people, could not. In injured tones, the Turkish foreign ministry issued a statement pointing out that Turkey had always voted with the Islamic world on resolutions calling for Israeli withdrawals

Iran's baiting of Turkey co-incides with a worsening of officials arrested several Turks world over the Israeli agreement, the division of Euphrates river waters and the future of Iraq. "These 'old friends' voice disappointment at the way Turkey and Israel are developing relations independently of them," wrote a foreign affairs commentator, Gun Kut. "It seems they are allowed to make peace with Israel, but it hecomes 'unfriendly' when Turkey develops its own ties."

from occupied territories.

Other Turkish commentators railed against Turkey's old rival Iran, accusing it of in-creasing support for Turkey's rebel Kurdistan Workers' Party, of trying to monopolise the Kurds of northern Iraq and trying to build a nuclear bomb.

The dispute illustrated again the awkwardness of Turkey's relationship with its Muslim neighbours, despite the dream of a Muslim commonwealth.

Diplomats also said it showed the success of Iran's strategy of intimidating it's neighbours. "If Turkey bas been careful so far, it is because they know exactly how much damage the Iranians can do if they want to," said one

Western diplomat. **Pulitzer Prize for** captured reporter

MICHAEL ELLIS Reuters

Boston - David Rohde, a reporter on the Christian Science Monitor, who was captured and held by Bosnian Serbs last autumn after uncovering suspected mass graves, won the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting yesterday.

Mr Rohde was the first Westem journalist to visit and collect evidence from the graves, where human rights officials believe more than 3,000 Muslims were massacred and buried following the fall of the UN "safe haven" of Srebrenica to Bosnian Serbs in July 1995.

While taking pictures of human bones at one suspected grave site, he was arrested by Serb guards and charged with falsifying documents, facing a jail term for "criminal espi-

onage charges". After his capture became a central issue in the Balkan peace talks in Dayton, Ohio, Bosnian Serb authorities confirmed they were holding Mr Rohde. The US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, intervened and Robde was released after 10 days.

On his return to Boston, where the Monitor is published, Robde wrote that two mass graves be visited were exactly as described by witnesses who said they survived executions outside Srebrenica. "The layout was exactly like they said it was, and I found the graves. Everything matches," Rohde told Reuters in November.

"It was just like a regular field but one big, wide area had been dug up and filled back in again. On top of that, scattered across that were shoes, shirts and eyeglasses. And there was a separate pile of a hundred jackets - no bullets in the jackets, no indications of any fights in the area," he said.

Robde, 28, was on assignment in Tuzla yesterday, researching a book about the massacre, and could not be reached for comment. In a press release, he said he was "happy to get the truth out about the Srebrenica massacre". Last week, he went back to the graves and filed a story which said the sites had been tampered with.

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High stakes in Korean grudge match

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

"Congratulations!" said the student in the tracksuit, when I told him that I was reporting on South Korean politics. "This hasn'i happened for years - you must be very happy." A few mo-ments earlier, it should be explained, I had been doubled up on a Seoul pavement, coughing up phiegm into a wad of crumpled tissues. My throat was burning, my nose was running, and my tear gas-filled eyes felt as if they were liquefying on to my cheeks. "There hasn't been a riot like this since the 1980s," my new friend assured me. genuinely happy on my behalf.
"And you caught it - that's...
that's great."

Welcome to Seoul, and the 15th National Assembly elec-tions of the Republic of Korea. A fortnight ago, when the cam-paign kicked nff, it could hardly have been less promising, an uninspiring grudge match be-tween three parties with iden-tical policies and identically named leaders - Mr Kim, Mr Kim, and President Kim. Today, as voters go to the poils to elect their 299 National Assembly men, this is still gning to be an election in which the conventinnal staples of democratic politics - ideological difference, policy debate - play little part. But what it lacks in substance it has made up for with the greatest quality of Korean politics - a sense of occasion.

Credit for this belongs to two groups which, in the last few days, have made a dramatic reemergence into the political mainstream. The first is the students who, until a few years ago, were a significant political force in their own right. In 1987, a sequence of huge rallies, frequently ending in violent battles with riot police, played a large part in persuading the then president, Chun Doo-Hwan, to give in to popular pressure for democratic elections.

But since 1993, when the former dissident Kim Young-Sam became president, many of their guevances have been addressed. Chun Doo-Hwan is in prison, along with his successor, Roh Tae Woo, charged with bribery and with ordering a massacre of student protesters in 1980. A fortnight ago, however, on a demonstration against an increase in university tuition fees, a 20-year-old undergraduate died of a heart attack after a beating from the



Bordering on the ridiculous: North Korean troops (left) and a South Korean soldier film one other in Panmunjom yesterday

police. His funeral procession yesterday attracted 7,000 marchers who snaked through the city all day, blocking traffic,

chanting anti-government slogans, and exchanging tear gas and eggs with the riot police. How much impact this will have on the elections is hard to gauge, although for President Kim, the sight of thousands of youths chanting for his downfall cannot have been reassuring. What he loses to the students, however, he may gain from the intervention of another perennial force in South Kore-

an politics: North Korea, Last

weekend, after renouncing its responsibilities in the armistice which ended the Korean War in 1953, the People's Army made three miniature sorties into its side of the supposedly demili-tarised zone which separates the enemy states. Similar hi-jinks have gone on intermittently for years, provoking no more than average alarm. But this week, the president and his ministers have talked of little else - mindful, no doubt, of cautious older voters whose memories of the Korean War may induce them to opt for caution rather

President Kim's New Korea Party will need all the help it can would be a humiliating blow to president. Kim Young Sam's muster By most reckonings, it the intensely proud president, single five-year term will come stands to lose his present materially most reckoning in the intensely proud president, single five-year term will come stands to lose his present materials. If not, they will be forced into to an end in 1998. Elections will jority, to retain between 1994 and an alliance with Kim Number be held in December next year 130 of the 299 seats. The prin- Three - the leader of the Unitcipal benefactor will be the second of the three Kims -Kim Dac-Jung, another former dissident and the presi-dent's one-time ally, whose National Congress for New Politics (NCNP) is running roughly neck and neck with the NKP. If the NKP can edge the battle for the presidency. ahead, then it stands a chance of cobbling together a majority with the help of a handful of

ed Liberal Democrats (ULD). Kim Jong-Pil. At this point the contest would start to get interesting, and the true significance of the election would be revealed - a contest marginally important in itself, except as

Apart from holding up budgets and legislation, the power of the National Assembly pales

independents - although this . in comparison with that of the and both his rival Kims are in

the running Although Kim Young-Sem cannot stand for re-election he is desperate to pass on his office to a political sympathiser. and for more than the usual reasons. As the first modern president without a military background, he cherishes an image of himself as the father of his country's democracy. His place in history could easily be

Photograph: Ahn Young-Joon threatened if one of his former

adversaries among the Kims was tn take his place. If the ULD is required to come on board to bail out the NKR however, Kim Jong-Pil has made it clear that he will do so only in return for an endorsement in the presidential elections, jumping the quene of younger NKP loyalists which Kim Young-Sam has lined up.In that case, the President will be left with a choice - either muddle along in the National Assembly without a majority, or yield his place in history to an old rival.

Hopes for Velts! US bases in Japan

Tokyo (AP) — America and Japan are close to agreement on measures to case the row over US forces in Okinawa, the American Ambassador Walter Mondale said yesterday.

But he added that he was not sure Okinawans will be satisfied with measures to cut back military landholdings and otherwise reduce friction over troops on the southern island.

Mr Mondale said recent tensions involving Taiwan and North Korea reinforced the importance of the US-Japan security relationship, to be reaf-firmed during President Clinton's visit to Japan next week.

The rape of a 12-year-old girl by three American servicemen last August ignited protects against US bases on Olinawa which hosts more than helf the 47,000 US troops in Japan. Amid the outcry, a joint US-Japan committee was set up in November to look into ways to consolidate bases on Okinawa.

Both US embassy and Japan-ese foreign ministry officials refused to comment on a report in the Yomiuri newspaper saying the pact would call for America to return 12,350 acres to landowners on Okinawa. The report said the plan does not call for the return of Futernma Air Base, which has topped the Okinawans' priority list be-cause it is in the middle of a city.

US officials also have agreed to a ban on uniformed marches off base and stricter restrictions on night flights. Mr Mondale was uncertain whether he expected the moves to satisfy the Okinawans, but he said the US had "really tried" to address their concerns.

"There's been more effort in the last six months than in the last 20 years," he said, adding that a reassessment of the US military role was long overdie. Both governments have said US troop levels in Japan would remain constant, though some troops may be moved to other parts of the country. Okinawa's government has drawn up plans

troops from the island by 2015. Meanwhile, more than 3,000 people living near an air base outside Tokyo yesterday filed a law suit demanding 3.3bn yen (£20m) compensation from both governments for noise.

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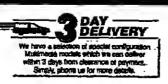
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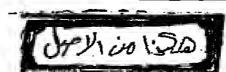




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Nuclear dangers: A summit in Moscow on safety issues in the East could be used to focus attention on weapons in the West

Yeltsin delivers first salvo in missile debate

Just over a week before he plays host to the Group of Seven mdustrial nations at a major summit on nuclear safety, Boris Yeltsin yesterday sought to steal some early limelight by urging Western countries to keep their nuclear missiles on their own

He combined his appeal with a reassurance that Moscow would this year finish withclear arsenal to within Russia's many and other European countries. Most analysis thought ast weapons from Ukraine and

His proposal - which would require an overhaul of Nato nuclear thinking were it to go ahead - was greeted coolly by Western diplomats, although it is likely to be on the agenda at the summit on 19-20 April. The United States is the only

country, apart from Russia, with nuclear weapons on foreign soil principally aircraft-delivered bombs, which are stored in Ger-

it unlikely the US would accept the idea, largely because it would mean diminishing America's rule in providing the Nato nuclear umbreila. A spokeswoman for the US State Department said that it was unable tn react to Russia's suggestion

until it received more details. Mr Yeltsin's suggestion appears to be part of his effort to play on the large auti-Nato sentiment in Russia as the battle to win votes in the presi-

dential election in June gathers momentum. Russia's anxiety about Nato expansion has deepened - as Yuri Ushakov, a senior official with the Russian Foreign Ministry, made clear yesterday when he addressed a security conference in Moscow.

We at the Foreign Ministry understand that the east Europeans feel drawn to Western civilisation, but we cannot understand where Nato comes into it. It seems to us that such structures as the European Union, the Council of Europe ...

are contributing to the status of a member of the European family to a far greater degree than the military alliance, Nato."

If Nato expands eastwards, Russia's military would "reasonably seek and achieve a dramatic increase in defence spending and a revision of the basic arms control agreements" he warned. "The danger is there.'

Nor, he said, could Russia comprehend the east European view that entry into Nato would remove some "grey areas of in-

that Moscow believes no longer exist. The reverse would be true, as they would find them-selves "nn the frontier of confrontation", he argued.

Exactly what this "frontier" would comprise is unclear. Some analysts have suggested that Russia's response to Nato's eastward expansion would be to delay withdrawing ex-Soviet missiles from neighbouring Belarus, or even deploying more weapons there. However - de-

ADRIAN BRIDGE

of the former Soviet Union.

type - known by the Russian acronym RBMK - which are

still in operation in Russia. Ukraine and Lithuania.

Despite improvements to the

plants since the accident, nu-

clear power experts believe they still represent an acute

danger. According to specialists at the Vienna-based Interna-

tional Atomic Energy Agency

(IAEA), they should all be shut

down - or, failing that, signifi-

A report issued by the United

States energy ministry earlier

this month declared that many

of the reactors still in service in

eastern Europe and former

cantly further upgraded.

Russian military is believed to be opposed to this idea, not least because of their concern that the weapons could be used to threaten Russia in the future.

Russia's sensitivity about Nato appears to flow from an assumption in Moscow that nuclear missiles would be deployed on the territory of any new Nato member, although there is scant evidence that this would be the case. Poland, for example, is unlikely to welspite the new integration pact come that prospect, partly be-

Agency urges closure

of risky reactors

between the two nations - the cause it would immediately find itself the target of Russian weapons.

But Mr Yeltsin's comments will add to a dehate in Nato about how to handle eastern expansion. While the alliance has accepted that it is unlikely to store nuclear weapons in peacetime on the territory of new members, a further commitment to remove them from countries where they are already stored would revive a damaging debate about the role of nuclear weapons in Europe.



Parting shot: Boris Yeltsin (centre) and President Kwasniewski (right) pass a guard of honour at the end of the Polish leader's visit to Russia

Polish PM calms Russia over Nato

TONY BARBER Europe Editor

President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland completed a difficult three-day visit to Moscow yesterday, acknowledging he had failed to allay Russian suspicions about Poland's desire to join Nato.

"Only a blind person could expect Russia and Poland to agree on the question of Nato. The important thing is that we were able to talk about it." Mr

Russia has long opposed the admission into the western alliance of its former Warsaw Pact satellites, proposing instead a joint western-Russian security guarantee of central and

computing.

ever, the Kremlin bas indicated that it may not object to the inclusion of Poland and a couple of other countries in Nato, provided they are not fully integrated into its military struc-

Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary have rejected both proposals, insisting they are sovereign states with the right to choose which alliances they want to join and on what terms. At the same time, Mr Kwasniewski and Czech and Hungarian leaders have emphasised they do not view Nato membership as a mechanism for

isolating Russia. "Poland does not want to be

try in a new Europe," the Pol-ish president said. "If there are good ties between Russia and Poland, this is good for Europe. The path we are going down tures and security arrange- towards democracy and a marthere is room for Russia, Poland

and all of Europe there." defeated Lech Walesa in presidential elections last November. He held talks with President Boris Yeltsin on Tuesday but the only concrete agreement signed during his visit was an accord on Polish-Russ-

ian youth exchanges. Other proposed agreements

in Nato against Russia. It does not want to be a frontline coun-try in a new Europe," the Pol-cross the Polish-Russian border failed to materialise. There was some discussion of economic issues, including a proposal to create a free-trade zone in the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad, bordering Poland, but no formal accords.

> results underlined the recent strains in Polish-Russian relations. These were highlighted last January by the resignation of Poland's former prime minister, Jozef Oleksy, over alle-gations that he had heen a Soviet and Russian agent.

On Tuesday, Mr Yeltsin hlamed Mr Walesa for the poor

we hadn't got on well with Walesa." The former Polish president retorted that relations had cooled because "Russia was testing its hegemonistic tendencies, while I was resolutely defending Poland's interesis".

Communist turned left-of-centre democrat, made a point during his visit of holding talks with Gennady Zyuganov, the Russian Communist leader who says he would like to restore the Soviet Union. Mr Kwasniewski wanted a close-up look at the man who is favourite to defeat Mr Yeltsin in next June's presidential elections and whose policies could greatly affect Poland's destiny.

Soviet republics had faulty emergency cooling systems which could lead to massive Central Europe Correspondent radioactive leakages at any A decade after the Chernobyl disaster, the risk of another muclear power plant catastrophe The ministry report singled continues to cast an ominous out the first and third reactors shadow over Europe and most at Chernobyl itself as the worst of the lot, saying that the state Most anxiety is centred on the of the site was now worse than 15 reactors of the Chernobyl

it had been prior to the accident on 26 April 1986. In addition to the RBMK light water gas-cooled reactors. experts remain extremely worried by another Soviet model, the WWER pressurised water

reactor, which also remains in widespread use. The IAEA has singled out the Bohunice and Kozloduy plants in Slovakia and Bulgaria respectively as being particularly dangerous.

The subject of improving nuclear power plant safety features heavily at a four-day conference in Vienna this week, attended by politicians and scientists from West and

East

Its recommendations, in turn, will be forwarded to leaders of the world's seven richest nations meeting in Moscow later this month for a summit on nuclear

Although most agree the best solution would be to close the most dangerous reactors, the countries operating them say they cannot shut them down because they depend on them for

their power supplies.

The cost of upgrading the RBMK plants alone to Western safety standards is estimated at around \$100m (£66m)-\$150m per unit - money which cannot be afforded by countries from the East and which has not been forthcoming from the West.

The two operational reactors at Chemobyl itself, however, will almost certainly close by the year 2000, in return for which Ukraine is set to receive more than \$3hn compensation from the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations

Unsafe nuclear reactors in eastern Europe former Soviet Union LITHUANIA

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Africa nuclear pact puts Israel under pressure

JONATHAN WRIGHT

Cairo - Africa today joins Latin America and the South Pacific in an expanding club of zones 53 African states and the five big nuclear powers sign the Treaty of Pelindaba in Cairo.

The choice of venue, in the only African country which bor-ders Israel, is another turn of the screw in an Arab campaign to persuade the Jewish state to open up its nuclear programme to international inspection and eventually dismantle it.

The naming of the treaty, after the site where South Africa developed and then dismantled its own nuclear weapons, also sends Israel a message that unilateral nuclear disarmament and regional peace can go hand

The treaty, which bans nu-clear weapons from the African continent and the islands around it, specifically advocates a similar agreement covering the Middle East states. The parties [recognise] that the establishment of other

NWFZs [nuclear-weapon-free zones], especially in the Middle East, would enhance the security of states party to the African NWFZ," says the treaty. For the host country Egypt it is also a step towards hanning

nuclear, chemical or biological - from the countries in its Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will invoke that target in his keynote address to the signing ceremony, officials said.

all weapons of mass destruction

toric step, which must be fol-lowed by the next logical step -clearing the Middle East of uuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction," the Egyptian government newspaper al-

The five declared nuclear states - Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States will sign protocols to cooperate with the treaty and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against any part of Africa. France and Spain will sign a

separate protocol covering the Canary Islands and two towns on the coast of Morocco in the case of Spain, and the Indian Ocean islands of Mayotte and Reunion in the case of France.

powers, the treaty leaves each state to set its own policy on visits by foreign ships or overflights carry nuclear arms. In another let-out clause, the

treaty gives each state the right to withdraw from the treaty "if it decides that extraordinary events ... have jeopardised its supreme interests". But signatories must disclose

any capability they have to make nuclear weapons, then destroy making them under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). They also promise to reach

safeguard agreements with the IAEA, equivalent to those under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty, which all African states already support. Israel, which refuses to sign the nonproliferation treaty, is believed to possess 200 nuclear The treaty is doubtless a his-

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Richard Condon

Richard Condon started out promoting Snow White and Dumbo, went on to act as press agent for some of Hollywood's biggest stars then, at the age of 43, turned himself, with The Manchurian Candidate, into a hest-selling novelist. And a best-selling writer he remained, with over 25 novels to his credit over a career which spanned almost 40 more years. His most recent novel, Prizzi's Money, the fourth in a highly acclaimed black comic series which began with Prizzi's Honor (1982), was published in 1993 when he was 78.

Born in Manhattan in 1915. Condon spent over 20 years as a Hollywood publicist, first for Walt Disney (he saw Fantasia 43 times) then for just about every other major studio. Based in New York, his job was to take care of visiting Hollywood stars in town to promote their films. "It was the publicist's responsibility to see that they were entertained a euphemism for

pimping." he once remarked.
That kind of experience gave him a healthy cynicism and an understanding of corporate sys-tems where the power is never where it appears to be. In 1957. after three ulcers, he quit his high-pressure joh to become a writer. "I was 42 and I decided I had to get out - that publici-

ty work is so will-o'-the-wisp". Two years later he caught the mood of the time superbly with a mesmerising thriller. The Manchurian Candidate, which married Cold War paranoia with Freudian and behaviourist psychology in its story of a United States war hero hrainwashed to assassinate The release in 1962 of the

award-winning film starring Laurence Harvey as the war hero and Frank Sinatra as his army buddy assured the book's world-wide success. Sinatra also owned the rights to the film and after President Kennedy was assassinated withdrew it, supposedly for its prescient foretelling of the Kennedy assassination (it was 25 years before it was seen



on the cinema screen again). Condon's writing often attracted that kind of controversy. The Manchurian Candidate bore no relation to the Kennedy assassination but he later wrote three novels based on that event. The best known, Winter Kills (1974), was in 1979 made into an ingenious film starring Jeff Bridges and directed by John Huston. Although it got rave US reviews it was pulled from cinemas after a couple of

weeks and simply disappeared. Condon believed that "Senator Edward Kennedy's dislike as the scorned woman.

Coincidentally or not, the com-pany behind the financing of the film also got \$90m of defence contracts each year.

A satirist and black humorist, Condon was duhbed "the American Balzac" for his prolific output of books either about US politics or, later, the Mafia. He distinguished between them in this way: "If you're writing about the Mafiosi it's based on a rock bed of re-ality. If you're writing about politicians you're writing about marshmallows and smoke." Money, however was the unifying theme of all his books.

A proponent of what one crit-ic called the "Higher Corn", he understood exactly what he was understood exactly what he was doing. "Satire can only survive by holding a very slippery thin edge of reality. You have to try to make people believe in what you're writing about, even if you're mocking what they have accepted." But he could be vicious, as he was in Engager. vicious, as he was in Emperor of America (1990), his satire on Ronald Reagan and Ollie North. He genuinely disliked Reagan, referring to him on another occasion as a "turdkicking actor cowboy" who was perfectly cast as an idiot.

He was almost 70 when he shifted his attention away from politics to the Mafia with Prizzi's Honor, an original, inspired tale of a hit-man who falls for a hit-woman. It re-established him, especially when in 1985 John Huston made a successful film from it starring Jack Nicholson, Kathleen Turner and Anjelica Huston, who won an Oscar for her performance

Condon wanted Robert De Niro to play the part of the hit-man and hitterly opposed Huston's choice of Jack Nichol-Nicholson looked "too Ger-man". He later admitted he had been wrong. "Never ask a writer for advice on casting. Nicholson was wonderful."

He went on to write three more novels about the Prizzi family (family motto: "Fear was the first creator of Gods in the world"), Prizzi's Family (1986), Prizzi's Glory (1988) and Prizzi's Money (1993).

Condon lived away from America for many years: he moved to Mexico City on the proceeds of the film rights to The Manchurian Candidate in the early 1960s, and later lived in Switzerland and for 10 years in a Georgian mansion in Ireland. He moved hack to America in the late 1980s - to the suburbs of Dallas - to be near the grandchildren on whom he doted. He claimed Dallas was the most foreign of all his homes. He was married for almost 60

years to Evelyn Hunt Condon, a former model. She was first editor of each of his manuscripts. Her joh was to correct what he admitted was his "lousy" punctuation. He also wrote a Mexican cookbook, Ole. Mole. with Wendy Bennet, one of his two daughters. He claimed it was the only Mexican cookbook "written, test-cooked and eaten" in Ireland, and that it has the longest introduction (55 pages of autobiography) over written for such a work ever written for such a work. A solemn-looking but very

jovial man, Condon was a

gifted raconteur despite the fact that he suffered all his life writing comes. I'm sure, from from a bad stammer. He thought it had been induced by his father, who shouted all the time. He considered his father

Although he took his writing seriously, he also had fun with it. He invented the International Confederation of Book Actors: "comprising people who would have acted in movies, radio or opera if we hadn't been too busy writing. All that meant in practice was that he used his friends

friends certificates of performance when he borrowed their names in this way.

Condon admitted to only three of the seven deadly sins: greed, wrath and gluttony. However, in his seventies, a pacemaker notwithstanding. he wondered if he was also getting slothful - he wrote for "only" five hours a day. There wasn't able to communicate names for characters in his was nothing else he preferred

can't understand those

writers who say they suffer so much when they're writing. I think it is the best recreation Peter Guttridge

Richard Thomas Condon, writer, born New York 18 March 1915: married 1938 Evelyn Hunt (two daughters); died Dallas 9 April



Adams and Marie McLaughim in Smetana's The Two Widows, 1993

Photograph: Clive Barda

The bass Donald Adams had virtually three careers - first as ordinated. a straight actor, secondly, as a principal singer with the D'Oyly Carte company and in Gilbert and Sullivan for All, a touring company that he co-founded;

finally, as an opera singer, appearing with all the major British companies and several in Europe and the United His favourite Gilbert and Sullivan character was the Pirate King in Pirates of Penzance, be-cause "it's every schoolboy's idea of a pirate king, a good part to act, with some fine mock-Ver-

fond of Murgatroyd's song "The ghosts' high-noon". As an opera singer he excelled in comic parts such as Dr
Bartolo (both Mozart's and
Rossini's, in The Marriage of Figaro and The Barber of Seville)
and Quince in Britten's AndD'Oyly Carte. summer Night's Dream, hut could summon up a surprising amount of venom for, say, Monterone in Verdi's Rigoletto or Dikoj in Janacek's Katya Kubanova. Each role he sang was

of the character perfectly co-

"a negative force", his mother

a "benevolent" one in his life, but it was his father he credit-

ed with his writing skills. "My father used to write me three

postcards a week because he

Donald Adams was born and brought up in Bristol. He be-came a chorister in the cathedral where, at the age of 16, he played Thomas à Becket in TS. Eliot's Munder in the Cathedral. He served in the Army dur-ing the Second World War. spending the last two years of his service as resident director

of the Army Repertory Theatre at Catterick Camp. In 1949 he made his profes-sional debut at the Embassy Theatre in Swiss Cottage, London. After two years at the di to sing." He also liked play- Great Yarmouth Rep, he aping Sir Roderick Murgatroyd in peared as the Irish washer-Ruddigore and was particularly woman, Mrs Ginnochic, with "Old Mother Riley and her

Adams joined the chorus, sang small parts and under-studied 26 roles. His first maduction directed by Peter Selljor role was Colonel Calverley ars, then aged 25), followed by in Patience (1952): In 1953 he Baron Mirko Zeta in The Merbecame a principal bass, singing meticulously presented, with Dick Deadeye (HMS Pinafore), rector and the Banker in Lulu. the vocal and dramatic sides the Pirate King, the Earl of Also in 1983 he made his

Mountararat (Iolanthe), Arac. Covent Garden déhut as a marvellously subtle way he han-(Princess Ida), the title role in Frontier Guard in Boris Go-died the text. The following year Mikado. Sir Roderick Murga-

Donald Adams

troyd and Sergeant Meryll (The Yeomen of the Guard). He also married Muriel Harding, who was a soprano with the D'Oyly Carte company from 1945 to 1954. From 1963 much of his en-

ergy was concentrated on Gilbert and Sullivan for All. In January 1969 he left the D'Oyly Carte, who were playing in San Francisco at the time, and for several years toured- with Gilbert and Sullivan for All in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Far East. The company also made several films. He wrote Arthur Lucan and Kitty Mc- and appeared in the one-man Shane in the music-hall sketch shows Adams Tale, An Evening with Donald Adams and Another

Evening with Donald Adams. His transfer to the world of opera was gradual: after singing Alfred Doolittle in My Fair Lady for Scottish Opera in n' Widow and the Theatre Di-

dunov, later singing Quince in Midsummer Night's Dream, and Colonel Frank, the prison governor in Die Fledermaus, a role that suited his comic talents to perfection.

He first appeared with English National Opera in 1985, as the unpleasant old bully Dikoj in Katya Kabanova, and with Welsh National Opera the same year, as Monterone. At Glyndebourne he sang Dikoj in 1988, and for Glyndebourne Touring Opera, Rossini's Dr Bartolo, a role he also sang in Amsterdam. Engagements now followed

thick and fast: over the next few

years he sang the Sacristan in Tosca at Geneva; the Mikado in Los Angeles; Mozart's Bartolo, and Pooh-Bah from the Mikado for ENO; Quince and the lawyer Swallow in Peter Grimes - a spiendidly pompous characterisation - at Glyndebourne; and Baron Ochs in Der Rosenkavalier (1990) for Welsh National Opera. This last performance was a triumph for the singer, now 62 years of age, and no longer in his finest of freshest voice, but who made up for any vocal deficiency by the

dled the text. The following year he made a superb Schigolch in Lulu for Canadian Opera in Toronto, and in 1992 at San Francisco sang Nick Bottom (A Midsummer Night's Dream). Unfortunately he did not sing this role in Britain, though he repeated it in 1995 at the Presence Feeting! Ravenna Festival.

Returning to Covent Garden in 1993, he gave excellent peg-formances of Badger and the Priest in The Curning Little Vixen, while for ENO he sang Mumlal in Smetana's The Two Widows. His final role for ENO, in March 1996, was Don

Pasquale. As with Baron Ochs, it was perhaps a shame that he did not sing this part earlier in his career. However, he gave, as always, a complete and rounded performance, broadly comic but, by implication, sad, even tragic at times; though not in his very best voice, he carried off the comic patter duet with Alan Opie's Doctor Malatesta in superb style.

Elizabeth Forbes

ma Harranda,

Donald Adams, born Bristol 20 December 1928; married Muriel Harding (deceased: one daughter); died Norwich 8 April 1996.

Professor Bela Szigeti

markably large number of Hungarians to achieve distinction in a career in physics. Like many of these he spent most of his working life outside Hungary. His own contribution was to the extremely successful and important post-war effort to develop the basic ideas necessary for understanding the physical properties of solids. A significant part of this effort was directed towards understanding in detail the effects of steady electric fields and of light on transparent crystals such as rock-salt. This was the subject of much of his work at the universities of

Bristol, Liverpool and Reading.

Bela Szigeti was one of the re- landowners, and the grandson of a judge. Although he spoke only rarely of his early life, it was clear that he placed great val-ue on the rich cultural hackground he had enjoyed and on his hroad general education, extending from science to Latin and Greek. This was the basis of the breadth of knowledge and wide range of intellectual interests which enriched his life.

He went to Switzerland for his higher education and ob-tained his PhD in physical chemistry at the University of Zurich shortly before the Second World War. He came to England early in 1939 and until 1941 worked on the appli-He was born in Budapest in cation of spectroscopic methods 1912, the second son of to medical problems, first at St

Bartholomew's Hospital. in London, and then in Cam-hridge. From 1941 to 1945 he did war work in an industrial

laboratory. Szigeti then switched to theoretical physics and from 1945 to 1948 carried out theoretical research in the H.H. Wills Physics Laboratory at Bristol University. His work there on the properties of ionic crystalline solid materials led to his deriving two key relations be-tween dielectric, elastic and vihrational properties. These relations, known universally as the Szigeti relations, already marked him as a theoretical physicist of importance.

From 1948 to 1962 he was on the staff of the Theoretical Physics Department of Liverpool University, where he de-voted considerable attention to the torsional (twisting) vibrations of long chain molecules, as well as extending his work on ionic crystals. His ideas on polarisation processes in crystals, in particular his clear perception of the role of the deformations of ions by forces from their near neighbours, were vital for the advances which he, and others influenced by him, subsequently made in the understanding of the motion of atoms in crystals. His important contributions to this field included studies of the effects of impurities on the properties of crystals, a line of investigation which he pursued

much further in the Physics Department of Reading University, where from 1962 to his retirement in 1977 he was successively Lecturer, Reader and Professor.

At Reading his own work and work in collaboration, particularly with his colleague Roy Leigh, was very fruitful. Much of this work was prompted by experimental studies in progress there on vibrational properties of impurities in diamond and semi-conducting crystals. The critical examination of the theories then used in the interpretation of such experiments led to important new insights. He demonstrated the limitations of information about vibrations in perfect crystals

signed between France and England, ceding Gibraltar and Newfoundland

10 England, 1713; the Treaty of

Fontainebleau was signed, 1814; Napoleon abdicated, and was ben-

ished to the Isle of Elba, 1814; Louis

XVIII acceded to the throne of

France, 1814; Uganda was declared

a British Protectorate, 1894; Gustav Hamel, aviator, flew from Dover to

ohtainable from the neutron scattering experiments being conducted in laboratories across the world.



Even a much fuller account of the results of his work would be incomplete if it did not comment on the style of his investigations. Szigeti's aim was always deep understanding of the problem in hand and he was little concerned about how long it took to achieve that understanding. As a result his publications were clear and rigorous and invariably of substantial significance.

Until her early death in 1965, he shared his keen interest in art, music and the theatre with his wife, Lois. His other recreations included chess and bridge, but conversation was his main pleasure. He was an attached member of one of the University Halls at Reading

and up to very recently was a regular attender at guest nights. He also enjoyed conversation with friends over coffee. A typical evening would start with conversation, but this would be followed by viewing a film from his collection of videos. His preference was for musicals, comedies and histories. It is perhaps not impertinent to speculate that he enjoyed these mainly as relaxation but also as bringing him from time to time, in a lighthearted way, echoes of his early years in Hungary.

Charles McCombie

Bela Szigeti, physicist: born Bu-dapest 2 August 1912; married 1946 Lois Yearsley (deceased): died Reading 17 March 1996.

BLRTHS

ROSS: On 1 April 1996, to Mary (née Keenan) and Michael Killoran Ross, a son. Carlo Keenan Ross. a son. Carlo recenan Ross.

SCHOFTELD: On Easter Sunday. 7
April 1996. to Susannah (nee Tucker) and the late John Schofield, a daughter, Charlotte Katharine Lucy.

DEATHS

CLOUGH: Gordon. Writer and broad-caster, peacefully at home on 6 April aged 61. Much-loved husband of Caraged 6f. Much-loved husband of Car-olyn, father of Jonathan, Penny, Elizabeth and Eleanor, son of Annie, brother of Peter, grandfather and col-league. Funeral at St Mary Magda-lece, Wandsworth Common, Trinity Road, London SW17 on Thesday 16 April at 2pm. Flowers to Mears & Cotterill, 0181-874 7698 or donations c/o Dr Robert Wilson, National Heart and Lung Institute, Dove-house Street, London SW3 6NP. CUMMINGS: Trevor William, on 2 April 1996, aged 39 years. A dearly-loved son, brother, nephew, cousin, uncle, godfather and friend, Trevor

LAWS: David, died 4 April 1996, Well loved by all and sorely missed. Fu-neral service at City of London Crematorium, Manor Park, London Et2 on Friday 12 April at 4.15. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to British Heart Foundation or Multi-

Births. Marriages & Deaths

MOORE: Roy (first Headmaster of St Michael's C of E High School, Chor-ley), suddenly at his hame at West-houghton, Bolton, on 2 April 1996, aged 70 years. His funeral service was held at St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Nannerch, Flintshire, fast Saturday, 6 April 1996.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS.
MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births. MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Measorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or fazed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra), OTHER Cazette anaouncements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) Forthcoming marriages, Marriages; must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switch number is 0171-293 2000.

Forthcoming marriages Dr J. R. Sale

and Dr C. J. Patient

The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Mr and Mrs George Sale, of Meols, Wirral, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stafford Patienz, of Ipswich, Suffolk

Birthdays Miss Janet Allen, former Headmistress, Benenden School, 60; Vis-count Buckmaster, former diplomat, 75; Mr Joseph Burnen-Stuart, former chairman, Robert Fleming Holdings. 66; Professor Raymond Carr. former Warden, SI Antony's College, Oxford, 77; Mr Gervase de Peyer, clarinettist, 70; Sir Harold De Ville, former chairman, Meyer Inter-national, 71: Mr Clive Exton. scriptwriter, 66: Mr James Alan Ferman, director, British Board of Film Classification, 66; Mr Ronald Fraser, actor, 66; Miss Jill Gascoine, actress, 59; Mr Joel Grey, actor and singer, 64; Mr Michael Hindley, MEP, 49; Sir Robert Maclean, Honorary President, Stoddard Holdings, 83; Mr Derek Martin, actor, 63; Dame Anne Poole, former chief nursing officer, Department of Health, 62; Mr Richard Wainwright, former MP, 78; Professor Michael Wright, mechanical engineer and chairman, 600 Group, 49.

Anniversaries

Births: Marguerite d'Angoulème, Queen of Navarre, 1492; Sn John Eliot, parliamentarian, 1592; Christopher Smart, poet, 1722; James Parkinson, physician and palaeontologist, discoverer of Parkinson's Disease, 1755; Jean-Baptiste Isabey, Disease, 1753; Jean-Dapusie (sabey, miniature painter, 1767; George Canning, statesman, 1770; Manuel José Quintana, writer and politician, 1772; Marie-Desiré Martin-Beaulieu, composer, 1791; Edward Everett, clergyman and statesmen, 1794; Sir Heary Creswicke Rawlinson, sol-dier and orientalist, 1810; Sir Charles Hallé (Carl Halle), pianist and con-ductor, 1819; Ferdinand Lassalle, so-cialist, 1825; James Augustus Grant, travel writer and explorer, 1827; Walter James Macqueen-Pope, theatrical historian, 1888; Dean Gooderham Acheson, lawyer and statesman, 1893; Glenway Wescott, novelist and poet, 1901; Norman McLaren, film animator, 1914; Alberto Ginastera, composer, 1916. Deaths: Llywelyn ap lowerth, Prince of Wales, 1240: Donato Bramante of Wales, 1240: Donato Bramante (d'Agnolo), architect, 1514; Sir George Bernard Shaw's play Pro-

Thomas Wyatt, conspirator, executed 1554; Antoine Coypet, painter, 1661; Henry James Byron, playwright, actor and editor, 1884; Charles Reade, novelist and playwright, 1884; James Anthony Bailey, circus proprietor, 1906; Richard Harding Davis, journalist and novelist, 1916; Luther Burbank, "plant wizum?" 1926; Sir Gerald Hubert Ed. malion opened in London, 1914; the International Labour Organisation was founded, 1919; the Stresa Conference between Britain, France and Italy began, 1935; the musical show New Faces was first produced, London, 1940; a major "blizz" air raid was made over Coventry by German aircraft, 1941; the spacecraft Apollo 13 craft. 1941; the spacecraft Apollo 13 blasted off from Cape Rennedy. 1970; a skeleton discovered in Berlin was stated to be definitely that of Martin Bormann, Hitler's deputy, 1974; the first London performance of the musical Blood Brothers was staged, 1983. Today is the Feast Day of St Barsanuphius, St Gemma Galgani, St Godeberta. St Guthlae, St Isaac of Spoleto and St Stanislaus of Cracow. wizard", 1926; Sir Gerald Hubert Ed-ward Busson du Maurier, actor and manager, 1934; Edgar Jepson, nov-elist, 1938; Freeman Wills Crofts, detective story writer, 1957; Marie Ney (Menzies), actress, 1981; Erskine Caldwell, novelist, 1987. On this day, the French were victorious at the Battle of Ravenna, Italy, but their leader, Gaston de Fots, was killed, 1812; Er Donma Faisfer varieties. 1512; Sir Thomas Fairfax was victorious at the Barde of Selby during the English Civil War, 1644; William III and Mary II were crowned joint mon-archs, 1689; the Treaty of Utrecht was

Lectures

National Gallery: Mari Griffith, "Lost and Found (i): Titian, Noli me Victoria and Albert Museum: Eileen

Graham, "A Carpel of Spring and Paradise", 2.30pm. Tate Gatlery: Mark Gisbourne, "Beauty must be convolsive or not at all": Surrealism in the 1930s", 1pm. National Portrait Gatlery: Justin Nolan. " 'Sweet England's Pride is Gone': the life and death of the Earl of Essex 1566-160t", t.10pm.

British Museum: Hilary Williams, "Ickworth: an Earl Bishop and a Neo-classical gasometer", 1.15pm. Royal Society of Literature, London W2: Miranda Seymour, "Graves, myth and war: the development of Robert Graves as a poet", 7pm.

Simon Dyer

A Memorial Requiem Mass for Simon Dyer CBE, Director-General of the AA, will be celebrated by Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, at the Brompton Oraor Brompton Oratory, Brompton Road, London SW7,
on Monday 13 May at 11.30am.
Those wishing to altend should write
to Mary Maddocks, AA, Norfolk
House, Priestley Road, Basingstoke
RG24 9NY, by 22 April 1996. Tickets will be issued.

Dinners

Chester Business Club Mr John Cole, former Political Editer of the BBC, was the guest of hoodur and principal speaker at a dinner of the Chester Business Club held yesterday evening at Rowton Hall Hotel, Chester. Mr Philip Me-Cormick, Club Chairman, presided. Mr Tom Hunt, Vice-President, and Mr Bob Clough-Parker, Club Secrelary, also spoke.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

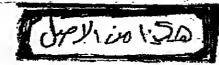
ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Princess of Wales attends a pinno recital in aid of the Voices Foundation, at the Royal Festival Hall, London SEL The Princess Royal, Patron, the Northern Lighthouse Board, visits Sanda Lighthouse, Sanda, and Davaar Lighthouse, Sanda, and Davaar Lighthouse, Campheltown, and visits Adisa Craig Lighthouse, Campheltown, and visits Adisa Craig Lighthouse, Campheltown, and Leisure Centre, Buckingham Princess Alexandra visits the Floyd Unit, Birch Hill Hospinal, Rochdsle, Greater Manchester: as Fatron, Anchor Housing Association, opens the Pendleton Croft retirement housing scheme at Heywood, Rochdale, Greater Manchester, and visits Vine House, the Cancer Help, Advice and Information Day Centre, Ribbleton, Preston, Lancashire.
Changing of the Catronel

Changing of the Guard Citanging of the Guard
The Household Cavairy Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at
Horse Guards, I tam: 1st Bottalion Welsh
Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at
Buckingham Palace, 11.38am, band provided by the Scots Guarda.

Mand Elkington, of Kettering Northamptonshire, left estate valued al £5,554,756 net. Mr Gordon Wickhurst Balmer, of

Windlesham, Surrey, left estate val-

ued at £3,565,445 oct.



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The state of the s

After today, the Gov-House of Commons will be one. Already Julian Critchley, the out-of-sorts Tory MP for Aldershot, has claimed: "I'm it." But of course Sir Richard Body, the most publicly reluctant member of the parliamentary Con-servative party, is also "it". As are, indi-vidually, each of the Eurosceptic rebels who still organise as a "Group of Eight" on the Tory benches. As is any poten-

tial Tory defector. Mr Critchley is more significant than Sir Richard and the Eight, because he is on the One Nation - One might almost say New Labour - wing of the Tory party. There are many other Conservatives who it can be imagined would be more comfortable with Tony Blair as prime minister than Michael Portillo. And after today, a Tory defector can have the added glory of a paragraph in history to the effect that they wiped out John Major's majority. For Mr Major's majority will be wafer thin following his arty's expected defeat in today's Staffordshire South East by-election.

Of course, James Callaghan defied parliamentary arithmetic and electoral gravity for three years after he lost his majority. (Who now remembers the role played in this by the defectors of 1976: John Stonehouse to the "English National Party" before his expulsion from the Commons; John Sillars and John Robertson to the Scottish Labour Party?)

But most of the time, Mr Callaghan had the support of the Liberals in a formal pact. This did not stop his governmeot suffering embarrassing defeats even being forced to cut income tax in 1978 - but ensured he could not be brought down. He survived fewer than six months after the Lib-Lab pact ended in the autumn of 1978.

As Mr Major takes his penultimate step to minority government, the record of the past and the predictions of the future do not suggest that be can remain in power until his preferred date for the next election, 1 May 1997, still just over 12 months away. Even if there are no defectors longing for historical paragraph status, the actuaries tell us that one Tory MP can be expected to die every three months. This means the majority would disappear by July and be referendum on the single Euro-

Candidates:

Conservative: Only 293 of

641 non-Northern Ireland

scats have candidates. Labour: All but 16 candi-

dates have been chosen.

Liberal Democrat: Just over

300 candidates are In place.

Conservative: The key agency

is M&C Saatchi, led by Mau-

rice Saatchi, veteran of the

past four Tory campaigns.

Labour BMP-DDB Need-ham, led by Chris Powell, brother of Torry Blab's chief of staff, Jonathan Powell.

Liberal Democrat: Knight Leach Delaney, the Delaney

On the grid, ready to go

Campaign Teams Conservative: Chaliman, Dr

Brian Mawhinney, and Deputy

Prime Minister, Michael Hes-

eltine, are the main axis; Former Express journalist Charles

Labour: Centrally, Peter Mandelson, Tony Blair's closest adviser, who ran Labour's

1987 campaign. But formalty, Gordon Brown, John

Prescott and Robin Cook

lead the campaign, pre-sented by Alastair Campbell.

Liberal Democrat Campaign chairman, Lord Richard Holme, gave up fighting Chel-tenham just before the Ub

Dems won it. Preparing the

Lewington presents.

oday: By election for the vacant parliamentary seat of Staffordshire South-East. The seat became vacant with the death of the Conservative MP Sir David lightbown on 12 December.

into a minority by October. It would

take two deaths because byelections are nowadays postponed for as long as possible; it is the iron law of this parliament that the Government

cannot win by-elections. Almost the only thing that matters in Staffordshire South-East today is the size of the swing to Labour. It is likely to be less than the postwar record 29point swing posted by Ian Pearson in Dudley West - in many ways a similar Birmingham overspill constituency - in December 1994. If the swing is greater, then the Conservatives are in very serious trouble indeed. It would suggest that the scare over BSE in beef had destroyed the Government's patient efforts to rebuild its trust on the back of one of the more virtuous recoveries in recent economic history.

But the real question is likely to be how far the movement to Labour falls short of this Blair honeymoon benchmark. If Labour wins the seat with a majority of only a few thousand votes, it could suggest that the traditional link between the performance of the economy and the popularity of the govern-

ment was finally being restored.

A fuller test of public opinion will be offered in the local elections on 2 May - which give about half the population (and not including London, Scotland and Wales) the chance to deliver the Tories' annual drubbing. The issue for the past three years has been not whether the Tories will lose hundreds of seats, but did they do better or worse than last year?

Whatever the outcome today and in three weeks' time, it is unlikely to persuade the Government to bring forward its plans for the next election. As in 1991, Mr Major is convinced that the longer he plays the election, the better his chances are. The fact that he faces a fundamentally more difficult task than five years ago does not deter him from trying to make the best of his hand.

His government is not yet under immediate threat. Mr Critchley may not like the idea of the Tories promising a

Next week: Probably a House of Commons debate on Railtrack sail-off, which could spark a backbench rebellion.

pean currency, but he is unlikely to be offered the chance of a Commons vote on the

matter. Next week, Labour intends to stage a debate on the sale of Railtrack. But, despite yesterday's surprise resignation of the franchise director for the privatised railways, Roger Salmon, there are no signs that the sale worries Tory MPs enough to bring down their gov-The question that dominates West-

minster is: When Major loses his majority, what then? As in the 1970s, Northern Ireland suddenly moves to the heart of the politics of the UK. Mr Blair has pursued a policy of bipartisanship from the moment of the IRA ceasefire in August 1994, and has con-tinued it since the ending of the ceasefire earlier this year. He has said he would not try to bring the Government down over Northern Ireland, and this has not changed after the tempered criticisms of the Government made by Mo Mowlam, Labour's Northern Ireland spokes-

woman, on Tuesday.

If there is trouble for the Government over Northern Ireland, Labour will not be making it. But the Ulster Unionists might. It was Jonathan Caines, recently special adviser to Northern Ireland Secretary Patrick Maybew, who suggested in a leaked document that the Unionists might see oo reason to sustain the Government this autumn. Their voters are just as disillusioned with this government's record on the economy and public services as voters in the rest of the country. And if they are satisfied that Mr Blair is at least no more hostile to their interests than Mr Major, why wait?

Relations between the Government and David Trimble's

campaign grand prix Today Mr Major's majority is almost certain to be cut to one.

John Rentoul

examines how he will survive

June 22-23: European Union summit of heads of government in Florence, Italy, might provoke more rebellion from backbenchers .

eptember 22-26: Liberal Democrat party conference, Brighton.

Under starter's

fay 30: Elections to the Forum in Northern

reland. Debate on the Elections Bill will be fierce and may cause backbench revolt.

September 25-28: Scottish National Party annu September 30-October 4: Labour Party conference, Blackpool.

Since then John

TORY

Unionist Party

return for

were also soured by

angry exchanges over the vote

on the Scott report. All nine UUP MPs

turned up to vote against the Govern-meot and it was only Tory Rupert Alla-

son's last-minute switch that carried the

day by one vote. But the UUP resented

accusations that they offered a deal in

Taylor, UUP deputy leader, has been making recklessly aggressive noises about how little his party cares whether Mr Major survives or not

Just the kind of friends Mr Major oceds as he clings to the edge of his parliamentary precipice.

October 8-11: Conservative Party conference, Bournemouth, a possible launch pad for a

general election campaign.

October 10: Possible general election date -party conferences would have to be scrapped. The economy may have picked up with strong consumer spending. IB DEM

December 12: Possible general election date-following an early tax-cutting budget.

April 4, 1997: Possible general election date -timed to coincide with the Budget tax-cutting

May 1, 1997: The latest practicable general election date according to former party strategists Andrew Lansley (Cons) and Paul Wheeler (Lab), and falls on the same day as the

county council elections.

200

Early November: Queens' Speech.

November 10-12: CBI conference, Harrogate. November 14: Possible general election date - campaign would be launched at the party conference.

November 26: Budget Day (provisional)



Graphic: Mark Hayman. Research: Anna David

being Paut, whose brother campaign is Alan Learnan, Barry once made party political broadcasts for Labour. be "more of a team feet".

Work at Harrods, if you're French

I am a little surprised as I peruse the French newspaper Le Figuro to see a large advertisement placed by Harrods, advertising for management staff in various departments



such as marketing. human resources, and other key strategic posts at the Knightsbridge store. Applicants, whose relocation costs will be paid by the store. must already have proved themselves by having worked in

Do the ranks of the British unemployed and the British "keen to change jobs" not include sufficient management whizz-kids with the requisite "dynamisme, réactivité et motivation", as the advert puts it? It also says that "notre président" (of Harrods, not France) Mr Al Fayed (above) and his international co-workers are far-seeing, "but the future is not only a vision; it is a reality.

But why does Mr Al Fayed, a vociferous patriot, seek staff in France for the most quintessentially British of stores? The Harrods public affairs director, Michael Cole, tells me: "We believe it is in the interests of this country to employ the best possible people, from all over the world. We employ in our workforce people from 54 sovereign states. The man who runs the food hall is a German. Mr Al Fayed has created a British institution of which we can all be proud." Mais oui.

Cellulite? Moi?

The Princes of Wales has in her time been accused of being paranoid, of attempting to scupper her husband's chances of acceding to the throne and of having an affair with a well-known British sportsman. To all these accusations she has maintained a dignified

silence. This week she was "accused" of having a cellulite problem. No royal reticence on this one. The next morning luvvyish overstatement, "I knew I had a icence on this one. The next morning her indignant rebuttal of the claim was pohlished on the front page of the Daily Mirror. A princess's priorities ...

Luvvies in Lilliput

The excellent adsptation of Gulliver's Travels on Channel 4 over Easter was a celebration of family values, I see. The director, Charles Sturridge, cast his wife, Phoebe Nicholls, as the Empress of Lilliput (they met when he directed Brideshead Revisisted, in which she played Cordelia). Their eldest child, Thomas, played Gulliver's son Tom, and their toddlers Matilda and Arthur

appeared as infant Lilliputians.
"It was an exploitative decision by me

very difficult thing to achieve with that part, and I knew he could do it." As well as family Sturridge dominating the cast list, there should also have been a credit for Mr Sturridge's tutor at Oxford, Peter Bailey. When he was 18, Sturridge wrote an essay on "The Satire of Gulliver's Travels". Mr Bailey wrote oo it: "A competent survey. May be of use to you later."

Save us from Rolf

I demand an organisation dedicated to saving classic rock music from cover ver-sions. Playwrights and their estates can refuse to lease the rights to applicants they don't fancy. Film studios have rights over their productions. But no



Caurical Value of Land Interesting S

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such safeguards exist when it comes to covering pop songs. And so, watch out later this month for Rolf Harris's very own version of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody", with wobble board replac-ing Freddie Mercury's operatic cries of "scaramouch". Any more plans Rolf? "Strawberry Fields Forever" complete with didgeridoo perhaps?

Amphibious amour

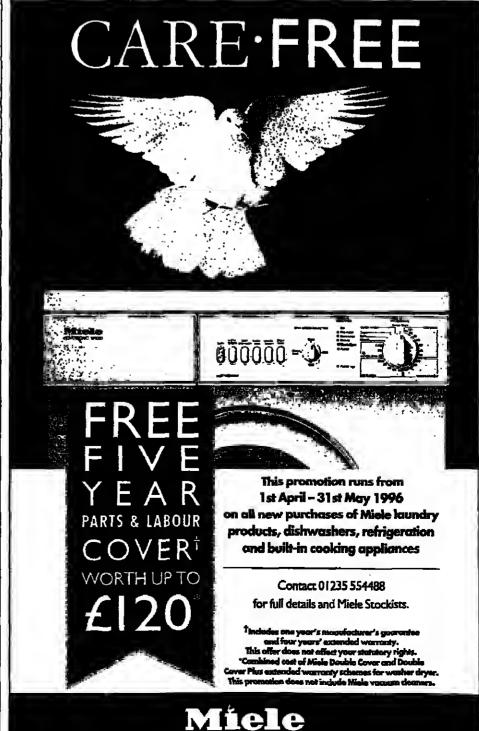
Remember Simoo Smith and his amazing dancing bear? This is Ken Livingstone's amazing dancing toad. The Brent East MP is ooe of a number of personalities who have created paint-

ings or drawings to he auctioned for the wildlife charity Care For The Wild. The Liberal leader, Paddy Ashdown, has drawn a bisco, to enhance his hardy outdoor image, presumably. But does Mr Livingstooe's painting "Dancing Toad - Young at Heart" mean he has transferred his affections from the collection of oewts he keeps in his London garden pond? "No," he tells me, "but newts are not as colourful as toads, and toads have more expressive faces." I sense there's a sonnet as well as a painting lurking in the Livingstone breast.

Winning ways

Great seduction techniques of our time: Michael Winner, film director, restaurant critic and charmer, tells the new edition of Take A Break magazine: "I tend to say 'Come on, let's get a move on!' And they say, 'I don't know you well ecough, and I say: Well, I'm at my hest now, but in a couple of weeks you'll hate me because I'll be going downhill." It's a wonder any girl can resist.

Eagle Eye







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Questions the lottery must face

Listen to Virginia Bottomley, the Sec-arctary of State for National Heritage, and you would think that everything in the lush garden which has grown up around the National Lottery is wonderful. It's not. She fudged the serious allegations made last year by the entrepreneur Richard Branson against the parent company of the lottery operator, Camelot. But the questions about what has become so familiar a part of daily life for so many will not go away. The way scratchcards are working poses fundamental questions about the lottery; she is obliged to the millions who pour money into the competition to answer them.

The principle of a lottery, most of the proceeds of which flow into "good causes", is a good onc. Without it, the feelgood factor deficit would be even higger.
The cuthusiasm with which people young and old, high and mighty, join in the weekly draw is spontaneous and genuine.

But doubts surround the way the lottery is practised. This is public money, literally if not officially. The way it is collected and distributed demands scrutiny. Yet the official scrutineer. Oflot, under the leadership of the ineffective Peter Davis, is not trusted as a regulator should be. The minister responsible - the ever-smiling Mrs Bottomley - must accept that, after . 18 months, there are aspects of the operation of the National Lottery she does not know enough about, such as the sale of scratchcards to young people. It is time she set up a review, for even if she does not think she needs information and assessment, we, the punters, do.

The agenda for such a review begins with scratchcards. By law, Oflot must not licence any game that encourages "excessive gambling". That is imprecise, but anecdote suggests instants do encourage patterns of play and spending which warp the original conception of the National Lottery. Why is anecdote all we have to go on? Because Offot has not bothered

to find out who bets on scratchcards: it has, till recently, done virtually no mon-itoring or research. Reports suggest children are avid buyers of the cards. The police are worried. Yet no action has been taken, perhaps because the Home Office, responsible for gambling and charities, does not even seem to be talking to the Department of National Heritage.

After that comes the distribution of lottery funds. After a rocky start, the lottery grants boards are up and running well.
But are the respective shares of sports,
arts, heritage and charities right? More
money should go to help the poorer, for
that would mitigate the lottery's regressiveness. That is not to say the geo-graphical distribution of funds highlighted in this week's report from the Directory of Social Change is skewed. Some of its figures for per capita receipt of lottery money are meaningless since they are not weighted for the fact big arts companies are concentrated in London. They do not allow either for the fact the lottery boards can only pay out if applications are made. Some parts of the country and some deserving groups bave been backward in coming forward. (The review ought to study the cost of making grant applications and whether procedures can be simplified.)

The other main object for the review should be the lottery's commercial basis. Camelot pic is a monopolist. Offot's task of assessing its costs and profits is made all the more difficult because it lacks directly comparable data. Is that situation immutable? All the other regulators, even the director-general of Water Services, are making efforts to bring competition to bear, however baltingly, on monopoly suppliers. Camelot plc may have a contract with several years to run, hut that must not make it immune from question and challenge. The lottery is successful and strong enough to withstand

London needs a mayor

The city state is being reborn across Europe. The city is one beneficiary of the weakening power of the nation state. as power passes upwards to supra-national institutions like the European Union and down to local and regional bodies. Cities are the hubs of the modern global economy, where transport and culture, husiness and public services come together to create an environment attractive to international investment, whether from

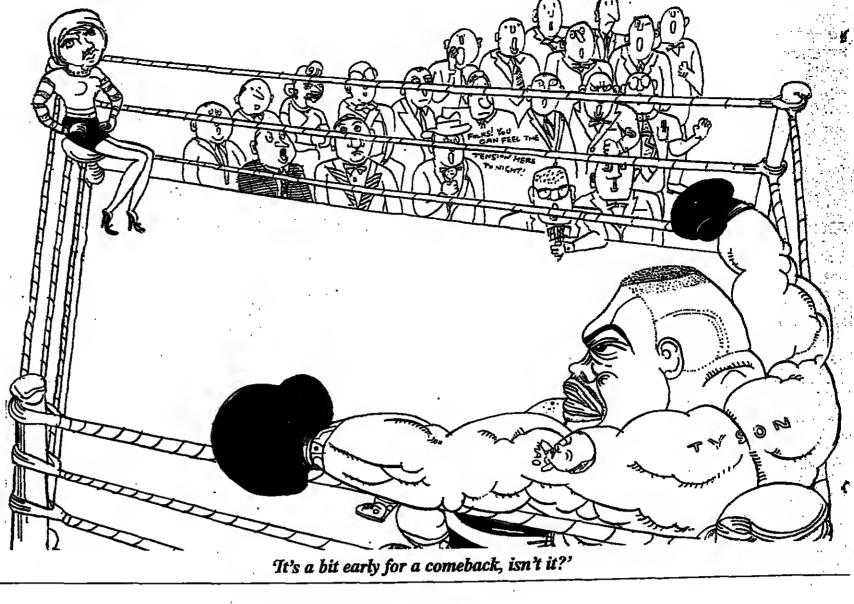
companies or tourists. Any nation that lacks a stralegy to develop its cities to the full is at a disadvantage. That is just where Britain is, and no more so than London. It is not difficult to feel a sense of frustration, despair even, visiting a European city such as Barcelona, lo witness the way that culture and sport, entertainment and history, regional idenuty and politics, the private and the public sectors mesh together to create a place

that has a sense of purpose. London is a city that has stalled. There is no sense of London-wide initiative, no sense of spirit and little sense of pride. There is development - Southwark council, for instance, has done a good job belp-ing to promote a cultural area on the south bank of the Thames. There are interesting proposals: the architect Sir Richard Rogers has devised a splendid plan to create a pedestrian area sweeping down from Trafalgar Square to the

Thames. But all too often these are lone

What London lacks is a focus and a voice for what are genuinely its interests. The Labour Party yesterday came up with some sensible, cautious proposals to create a Greater London Authority, a directly elected authority the members of which would take the place of Whitehall palacemen and women on the boards and quangoes that now largely run London-wide services. Mucb power would be left in the hands of the boroughs.

As a plan to avoid the excesses of old Labour loony leftism, this is all well and good. But it does not go far enough. In particular. Labour should come out and clearly back the idea of creating a directly elected mayor for London and other cities. This is not a panacea: it would create its own problems. But what London lacks more than anything is a voice and a focus for its sense of identity and purpose. The election of a mayor, who would then be responsible for representing London and fighting for its interests in the wider world, would be an excellent way to provide both voice and focus. The creation of directly elected mayors for all large cities would reinvigorate local democracy and enliven drab urban politics with leaders of potential clout and perhaps some personality. So, as usual, Mr Blair, don't smother your instincts in caution; shock us, be bold.



- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

Green farming systems can revive the countryside

ing plc can "go green". Rural peodecline seen in many rural areas are complex but one of the most pressing implications is the loss of rural employment. The UK farm workforce has shrunk from 21 per cent in 1841 to an average of 2.1 per cent in 1995, the second lowest figure in the OECD membership. It is set to drop even further.

The BSE saga has buge impli-cations for rural workers. The intensive farm systems behind BSE have let down not only consumers and the environment but also rural communities. In future they should not be relied upon to provide a stahle rural employment base.

It is possible to alter the

dynamics such that new and improved farm and rural job scenarios are created. Green farming systems can create job oppororganic and mixed are, by nature, more labour intensive and are associated with on-farm processing, local marketing and other almost at the bottom of the list in residue, which although minute

Korean peninsula, one must start

to worry about the way Far East-

ern Communist countries per-

ceive the course of democratic

voting. Can they really believe

that their military threats are

going to produce a situation which benefits them?

Both China's live ammunition

tests and North Korea's grum-

hings over the settlement of

1953 have been timed to coincide

with the legislative or presiden-

tial elections of their antago-

nists. Also, it is obvious that the

reason for these threats was to

attempt to influence the voting

patterns. In Taiwan, Chinese

manoeuvres produced a justified

resentment, which led to the

rejection of the candidate China

Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Sir. One further point to your valuativities (one study found 19 per able debate on whether UK Farm-cent greater employment on German organic farms). Landscape ple and jobs are vital to maintain and woodland management viable rural communities, services and culture. The reasons for the enhances local incomes. Such systems are often associated with

better environmental protection. Sustainable agriculture will be a reality when a working, healthy environment is created. The obstacles to this are many but the UK could and must take the lead. VICKI HIRD

Sustainable Agriculture Food and Environment London SW1

Sir: Congratulations on you "Comment" page (9 April). All five articles are refreshingly to the point. How wonderful if we could have a government to support organic farming by changing the structure of agricultural subsidies. We would all benefit so much if gradually the evil side-effects of in cleaning up water, soil and air, chemicals and pesticides were to not to mention human health. tunities. Low-input farms such as be removed. Doubtless in time the national health bill would fall noticeably too.

How shaming that we are

too, it seems likely that the New

Korea Party of Kim Young Sam

has returned from the electoral

abyss thanks to the North's trying

the Communist authorities wish

to see war, and it would be unwise

of them to flout Western opinion

and money. North Korea not so

long ago was appealing for mas-

sive food aid to prevent starva-

tion, from Japan, from America,

and from her prospective enemy,

Let us hope that Communist

planners will recognise the failure

of any policy to intimidate polit-

DONALD STARK

London SW1

ically aware free voters.

South Korea.

In neither of these places do

to push him further down.

North Korea bullies Seoul voters

Sir. Given the recent events in the wished to see. In South Korea

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone

number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.nk)

Enrope for our percentage of in actual terms, could be suffi-organic farming. Before it is too cient to trigger a reaction with late let us hope we can start moving towards the top H J MACKERRAS

London NW8 Sir. Your feature on the potential for "British farming to go green"

was excellent (9 April). The crunch comes when every consumer faces up to the impact that their purchasing decisions have on how the purchase is produced. They can also make sure it causes minimal polintion, both through transport and packaging,

to name but two issues. Some consumers may only consider the extra cost of an organic item versus its "conventional" rival. Others, and J suggest that they are the wise ones, see through the "cheapness" of the latter and appreciate the costs it imposes on all of society

food, knowing that the alternative probably carries a chemical

another residual chemical and cause the health breakdowns that now afflict so many in our society. Eating organic food is a wise

> OLIVER DOWDING Shepton Montague,

Sir. Where on earth does Yvette Cooper do her "organic" sbopping? In my experience (with the exception of the odd batch of old, unsold over-priced produce) organic vegetables are generally attractive, radiant, regular and of good colour with superior taste.

To state that "organic vegetables are ugly, smaller, grub-filled and not beautiful a load of old compost.

NiGEL JONES

London W1

Sir: My small farm of 27 hectares was more or less organic when my Like many others, I prefer the father came here nearly 50 years | routinely undertaken in the runimperfect shape or skin texture of ago. We would never bave survived bad it stayed that way. PHILIP FRY

of our interest rates.

that do not devalue.

position.

As for retaining the option of

Devaluation is simply a façade

behind which people can shy

providing scant incentive for

trade unions to exercise restraint

in wage bargaining. It must surely

be obvious by now that the most

successful economies are those

If those who oppose British participation in EMU have con-

cluded that Britain's future lies in

continued devaluation, they should surely rethink their

Legacy of care

Sir. Polly Toynhee (8 April) com-plains that John Major "promises new schemes to allow the old to

keep their property instead of

for the old

SPENCER LIVERMORE

London N4

Chippenham, Wiltshire

pean economy. The current situation whereby British interest rates are set by the actions of the Bundesbank would be replaced by a situation where Britain bad equal status in the European central bank, giving us the opportunity to participate in the setting

devaluation, you are right to imply that this is a fool's paradise. Gay teachers' school outing away from carrying out required economic reforms, as well as

to come out at school. The following morning, the right-wing tabloids were full of predictable, homophobic ontrage. I had expected that. What I had not expected was the total silence of supposedly "gay-friendly" papers like your own. If you do share our commitment to building a more tolerant community, why not find space to welcome initiatives such as this one. If only more young children are able to go through school spending it on care if they have to go into nursing homes". She helieves that personal wealth should be used to pay for care rather than burden taxes, and I aware that many of the adults they meet there and whom they know and respect are lesbian or gay, we may yet see an end to the prejudice

am inclined to agree.
Further, this sits ill with John
Major's other expressed wish to get rid of inheritance tax. This would make inheritance a lottery. Those who died without needing tong-term care would he able to pass on all their wealth, but those who spent a long time in care would leave nothing heyond

Would it not be better to have an effective inheritance tax and use it to pay (or part pay) for care of those who need it? A society in which inheritance becomes more and more significant risks increasing the already highly damaging wealth differences in

G W ALDERTON

Pre-election tax planning

Sir: Recent research conducted by KPMG (Succession Planning Survey, April 1996) suggests that the majority of husiness owners. while aware of the benefits of tax planning, have done little to maximise the potential gain from

The r

existing opportunities.

That, and not a desire to speculate on what a future Labour government's tax policies might be, is the rationale behind our recent series of pre-election tax planning seminars. Far from wishing to frighten our clients mto taking action (leading article, 9 April) KPMG believes its duty lies in advising its clients and others of the tax implications of a number of possible post-election scenarios, not just those of a

Labour administration. As professional tax advisers, that is our clear and obvious responsibility and one which we. as a strictly apolitical firm, have up to previous general elections.

Head of Tax, KPMG London EC4

Sir: The accountancy profession has left it much too late to offer advice about avoiding excessive tax burdens ("Wealthy learn how to beat Labour tax threat", 9 April). The present government already collects a higher proportion of national income in taxation than was ever the case under the previous Labour administration. NIGEL WILKINS

London SW7

Sir: On Sunday, for the first time in eight years, the National Union of Teachers held a debate on leshian and gay equality. Despite minor differences on the most appropriate union structures to oversee the project, speakers (including Executive members) were unanimous in their support for an annual gay teachers' conference, local support networks and backing teachers who choose

that has blighted the lives of so many people for so many years.

GEOF ELLINGHAM

School's Out London WC1

Good boys Sir. The Gallagher boys are inno-

cent because their mother says so ("Mum puts dent in rock band's wild man image", 6 April) Pardon me for being sceptical. More amusing are the calls of various Tory MPs, demanding the musicrans are brought to justice. Don't these MPs realise that the should be congratulating the Conservative Party that at least two people in this country have converted from lives of petty crime to successful careers DT KEVIN W-SOUTHERN

How to do a three-point turn in court

Today I bring you more of the fas-cinating High Court case in which Mr Sidney Delba stands accused of more than 6,000 parking offences, which is believed to be a world record (not counting offences committed by diplomats and embassy chauffeurs).

Counsel: So, Mr Delha, if I may sum up the case so far, you stand accused of leaving your car in a parking space in or near Kensington High Street for a period of over two years? Defendant: I think that sums it up fairly well.

Counsel: In a space marked "DISABLED ONLY"? Defendant: That is so. Counsel: With a ghastly green plastic

baby chair on the back seat? Defendant: Correct. Counsel: And a Frisbee and a pair of

Defendant: I believe so... Judge: May I inquire whether learned counsel has any purpose in detailing the contents of this car? Are we going to be taken through an itemised tour of the glove compartment?

Connsel: No, my tord. I am simply lulling the defendant into a feeling of false security with a series of easy questions so that when I finally bowl

him the inswinger, he doesn't see it



I also wish to paint a picture of the defendant as an able-bodied man who has children and goes jogging, and is the last person who should deprive disabled people of their parking spaces, and thus turn the court against this evil monster.

Judge: Fair enough. I shall enjoy

that. Carry on.

Connsel: So, Mr Delba, you go jogging? You enjoy the open air life? You have Frisbees at the ready wherever

you go?

Defendant: Yes, indeed. I also find it deters car thieves to see such valueless objects lying around in a car. Counsel: You are not, though, what one might call disabled? Defendant: Not in a Panglossian

sense. Judge: What sense is that? Defendant: Pangloss was the non-eponymous hero of Voltaire's work, Candide, m'lord. He was a philosopher who maintained that all was for the best in the best of all possible worlds.

Judge: That is clearly nonsense. If all was for the best, we would not have Michael Howard as Home Secretary. Defendant: Of course it is nonsense, my lord. But Pangloss would have said that all disablement is for the

Judge: Would he have said that Michael Howard is all for the best? Defendant: Pangloss was only a fic-tional character, my lord. But I feel sure that his creator, Voltaire, would have taken a dim view of Mr Michael

Judge: How can you be so sure? Defendant: During his life, my lord, Voltaire was forced to flee from France, after publishing some works critical of the establishment, and take refuge in England, where he found a safe asylum. I fear he might have felt that this would have been harder with Michael Howard in charge of the Home Office.

Judge: Hmm. We seem to have strayed from ... What is the case Counsel: Leaving a car for two years in a "Disabled Only" space, mlud. May I ask you, Mr Debla, what form your disablement takes? Defendant: I am dyslexic.

Counsel: In what sense? Defendant: In the usual sense. I get letters in the wrong order. Judge: You mean, you get the final demand first and the bill later??!

Counsel: Very droll, m lud. Defendant: Well, I don't think that is at all funoy! How can a judge make caustic comments about the defendant which, coming from a defendant about a judge, would have him liable to contempt of court?

Judge: Are you accusing me a committing contempt of court?

Defendant: Yes.

Judge: Hmm. That's a new one on

me. I don't think a judge can actually commit contempt of his own court. It's like the Queen being accused of lese-majesté. Or God being accused of blasphemy. I'll have to think about Defendant: Look, could we PLEASE

get on with this case? My car is parked in an "Ambulance Only" space outside and I can't leave it there all Judge: Court is adjourned. Let us

hear in 20 minutes, after Mr Delba. has moved his car, how dyslexia justifies parking in the wrong place. I shall look forward to that.

Tomorrow - the final thrilling instalment of this trend-setting court case.

Devaluation is a fool's paradise Sir: In an otherwise enjoyable pean sovereignty over the Euro-

article ("Singled out: the case for going m", 3 April), you fail to provide an adequate rebuttal of the Eurosceptic argument that inside a single currency the British government would "hand over control of monetary policy to Europe" (the Case for Staying Out). In so doing, you perfectly illustrate that the pro-European majority in Britain has been forced onto the defensive over

the issue of sovereignty.

It is vital that the debate over EMU is conducted in a way relating to the world as it is, not as some would like to remember it. With an increasingly globalised economy, the abandonment of the assumption that governments can "manage" their economies

ought to be accompanied by the discrediting of the idea that national sovereignty over economic policy is genuinely possible

In reality, far from being an abrogation of sovereignty, British participation in EMU can only result in creating a wider Euro-

Entitlements for railway staff

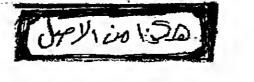
Sir. I find it surprising that Railtrack's new arrangements for travel by rail while on duty should lead to the conclusion that railway staff will lose their existing entitlements to concessionary travel for leisure and travel-to-work purposes.

The opposite is the case. The Government promised during the passage of the railway privatisation legislation that concessionary staff travel, an entitlement provided through contracts of employment, would be safeguarded. That com-mitment has been met. Arrangements are in place for those staff employed prior to 1 April 1996, together with dependants and retired staff, to continue to use their entitlements.

In general, however, railway staff will no longer be able to use their concessionary travel documentation for duty travel. In future, employers will need to purchase tickets or some other form of authority for travel on duty. JOHN WATTS

Minister for Railways and Roads Department of Transport London, SWI

the country.



A public finance scandal in the making

The private partnership approach is a shabby way for politicians to claim the credit but avoid the reckoning

Here is a journalistic conspiracy-theorist's guide to what sort of to it by a government department; it raises the money, manages and designs things go badly wrong in government. Look first for wheezes that allow hig spending where there wasn't big spendmg before - one thinks of the gush of shiny new headquarters, car fleets and refurbishment that followed the establishment of hospital trusts and government agencies.

Look oext for a hland cross-party consensus about some fashionable idea - a sure sign of looming disaster. The vogue for killing off grammar schools and building tower blocks are obvious examples. And remember, third, that most serious problems seem, at first sight, to be too boring and complicated for normal people to concentrate on - military helicopter pro-curement, the details of the Child Support Agency; public interest immunity certificates.

Now, it may just be me, but is it not mildly alarming that the Private Finance Initiative sets off each of these three alarm bells? It allows government ministers to announce spending that they couldn't otherwise have sanctioned - £5bn of hridges, hospitals and computer systems so far. It is a wheezc that is keenly supported by everyone from Tory right-wingers to, in a slightly different form, Labour's John Prescott. And it is, at first sight, complex and dull (and second sight, and third).

But it is important. We must pour ourselves another coffee and concentrate. The basic idea is simple. In the past, governments paid private companies to build things, such as schools or roads. The hill was footed by the

Under the PFI the private sector doesn't just carry out a contract given

raises the money, manages and designs the praject, and then helps to run it, too. The state, which because of tight public borrowing targets couldn't have raised the money itself, gets the project and pays the private company what is,

in essence, a rent for using the facilities. The private sector digs deeper into the ownership and management of things that were once wholly under the control of the state. It is a sort of "beyond privatisation" idea, something that the Tory right likes for ideological reasons. But it allows government to take the political credit for huildings and investments that, without private involvement, wouldn't have happened. The Tory left and the Labour Party likes it for that reason.

And, party instincts aside, the PFI has some genuine ments. When the state simply paid the bills, we saw appalling examples of cost overruns, over-lavish outfitting and sheer managerial incompetence. The new British Library is a good example, and most areas of Britain have hospitals that took far too long to build and cost hideously more than expected. Under the PFL the idea is that the private contractor shoulders more of the risk. If a bridge nceds to be resurfaced after five years, the private partner pays.

But there are two or three obvious catches. Though risks can be neatly apportioned on paper (a truly complex business) in the end, a government cannot walk away from serious cock-ups in services bought oo behalf of the public. If a bridge collapses or a hospital has to be closed, there are public duties on ministers and public costs that

no contract will cradicate. Cock-ups aside, the PFI may anyway



We are being offered public investment on hire purchase terms

cost the taxpayer more than ordinary public spending. The state can borrow more cheaply than private companies through the gilt market, so the financing costs of these projects would be lower. True, this hig benefit may be overwhelmed by the added efficiency of private management, and the trans-fer of risks to the private sector.

But no one knows. A recent paper from the merchant bank BZW said: This may or may not be true, but it will be some time before the taxpayer really knows whether they have had a good deal or not ... Furthermore, as BZW also pointed out, the PFI is essentially a postponement of public spending. Taxpayers still shell out by paying a rent; the money just gets speot later than it would have done.

Who is supposed to make the difficult balancing calculation between the lower costs of ordinary public spending and the possible efficiency gains from private sector management of a project? Answer: the permanent secretaries running each department, and money, on the one hand, from under pressure from ministers who effective political power on the other; want to be able to announce new

projects.

There seems to be risk for everyone except the here-today, gone-tomorrow politician, who gets the political credit oow, secure in the knowledge that any final reckoning will be postponed until after he or she has retired. No wonder politicians, irrespective of party allegiance, are so keen.

Uoder a government that has made a virtue of trying to pay back the national debt to lift the burden from future generations of taxpayers, this seems a short-term, even shabby, approach to spending. And since the PFI is bound to spending create companies dependent on such work, it will also create a new lobby for public spending. Whatever this is, it isn't public spending without tears.

Nor are the potential problems limited to the expense and new upward pressures for government spending. There are also serious policy questions. One recent PFI proposal to hand the power over court committal work who stands trial where and when - to a private computer company was only stopped after angry intervention by judges and Opposition politicians.

Another proposal, for the use of private capital to fund air traffic control was attacked last week by the chief executive of National Air Traffic Services, because a private sector operator would buy different equipment which could affect the efficiency of the system. If a private sector company is managing a hospital, even the non-clinical bit, doesn't that have implications for bed use? And so on. The PFI seems to me to try to disentangle management and this is not possible.

Strangely, it may seem, those Trea-sury officials who held a briefing last week about the PFI will be delighted by this scepticism. Their pleasure comes from the fact that up to now the much-vaunted initiative, which dates back to November 1992, has been generally regarded as a Majorite damp squib, another bureancratic-sounding hiss of deflating air.

Actually, though, the PFI is begin-ning to take off. Projects from the Channel tunnel rail link to the Skye hridge, from a new £250m hospital in Edinburgh to the other examples given above are beginning to tumble out of Whitehall. Initial caution from the Treasury and traditionalist civil servants is crumbling under the political pressure of a government constrained in how much it can borrowyet as keen as any government to make announcements about shiny new buildings.

So this is just the moment to become mildly alarmed. We, taxpayers and users of services, are effectively being offered public investment on hire pur-chase terms, in a system that will pass real powers from the state bureaucracy to private companies and in which lines of accountability are further hlurred.

The complexity of the issues and the forbidding thicket of initials are enough to keep most people away from this subject. But a good conspiracy theorist would expect that the public spending scandals of 2010 are being hatched now, deep in the bowels of the PFI. And, however unfashionable it may be to say so, recent experience of government shows that the conspiracy theorists are often quite right.

companies is that they know

that, some of the time, being an

efficient profit-making machine

requires them at least to appear

to be responsible social institutions. Every company of any size has to promote itself as

more than profit-driven. Nobody huys anything because

they want to improve the

seller's earnings per share, they

buy things because of the

attachment of values, fre-

quently values of solidity,

respectability and sometimes

The campaigners' weapon is, essentially, shame. WH Smith's solid blandness, in this

cootext, becomes a weakness

because it exposes itself to the

possibility of shame. With

pornography this becomes a

very potent weapon. Porn

inhabits a fraught realm in

which nobody can actually say

they want it, but, equally, lib-

erals find it difficult to say peo-

ple should not have it because its availability seems to be a

condition of free speech and

the free society. Porn consumers, who must represent a

substantial proportion of society in view of the sales figures,

may well disapprove in public

while huying in private. Poroo-

graphy, more clearly than any-

thing else, illumioates the

hypocrisy that seems to he structurally mevitable in liberal

social concern.

Peace comes before politics

Mo Mowlam explains why Labour will back elections in Ulster

What do Sir Patrick May-hew and I have in common? On the face of it, not much. And perhaps that is the explanation for how two characters as different as Sir Patrick and I could keep the halance between the parties at Westminster on Northern Ireland. In Britain and Ireland, north

and south, people often ask me what Lahour's hipartisan approach means in practice. Do you and Sir Patrick sit down to plan the way forward? Does John Major call for your advice? The short answer to both is: no. Labour decided to support

the Government over Northern Ireland hecause its approach was hased on agreemeous with the Irish government put into the Downing Street Declara-tioo (1993) and the Joint Framework Document (1995). Our own policy of unity by consent is one of the options in those documents, which provide a firm basis for a consecsus on a halanced settlement that can command the support of both communities. Building that consensus is what we would (and will) try to do, just as the British and Irish gov-

eroments are trying to do. Our support is based on principle and commoo sense. We want to put peace above party politics at Westminster. As the process stumbles on, I become more and more impressed by people's passionate desire for it to work. Even people with no interest in politics want the peace to hold and a just settlement to be reached. As a consequence, frustrations build up with what people see as the politicians' failure to give momentum to the process and

to work to deliver an outcome. I receive calls, letters, petitions and motions calling for faster prngress. I understand and identify with these feelings and answer that the best way right now for Labour to help is to prevent the Government with its knife-edge majority being driven into the arms of the right and the pro-Unionist wing of the Tory party.

Westminster political arithmetic has so often affected the politics of the island of Ireland: we must do all we can to stop that happening again. But however hard we try, electoral arithmetic and pressures will be central to the agenda. They are put there as much by the media, and the public, as anyone else who wants to end this elaborate pre-general election positioning and get on with electing a government fit to govern.

Bipartisan support means putting peace above party interest, but it does not and has not meant acquiescence to whatever the Government says or does. Northern Ireland secretary.

We have had our differences with the Government over the past 18 months. We want - and would have made - more progress on areas such as: protecting the basic rights of both traditions; a proper strategy for training and economic development; and fair employment and fair treatment guarantees for both public and private sectors. We have argued for the transfer or prisoners to Ireland, north and south, to ease family contact, and we have proposed changes to improve community identification with polic-

ing in Northern Ireland. These proposals have come with constructive and critical support. We have oot shouted about our differences because that would signal to the parties and people in the discussion: "Don't bother with the Tories,

Westminster arithmetic has so often affected the politics of Ireland

procrastinate and wait for a Labour government." Such a stance would be irresponsible, dishonest and damaging to the peace process.

This is a deeply sensitive period in Northern Ireland. against the volatile backdrop of the parades and marches, it is crucial that the various mechanisms to make talks happen are put in place. Elections in Northern Ireland are part of the process and the Goveroment wants and needs to pass the legislation to make them possible. We will not stand in the way of that legislation.

But the elections are part of a package. We are calling for the details of the other key elements - the role the elected forum would play and the ground rules for the negotiations - to be published alongside the Bill for the elections. This is essential, first, to let the parties see the whole package, to be reassured where accessary and to see what's in it for them and, second, to prevent support for the elections being adversely affected by a lack of knowledge about the rest of the

package on offer. Publishing all parts of the package together would let all the parties know what they are huying into and hring us closer to the objective that we all share - an inclusive and meaningful process of negotiations covering all relationships, which starts on 10 June with all the eligible parties present.

The writer is Labour's shadow

The new anti-porn weapon is shame. Will it wobble Smith's off the top shelf?

There is something shocking about magazines. One wall of every newsagent is covered with them - lurid, gleaming, overlapping ranks promising a near-infinity of choice, each one with a cover subtly designed to seduce the woman, the angler, the car freak and, with curves, rubber, leather and lace along the top shelf, the man.

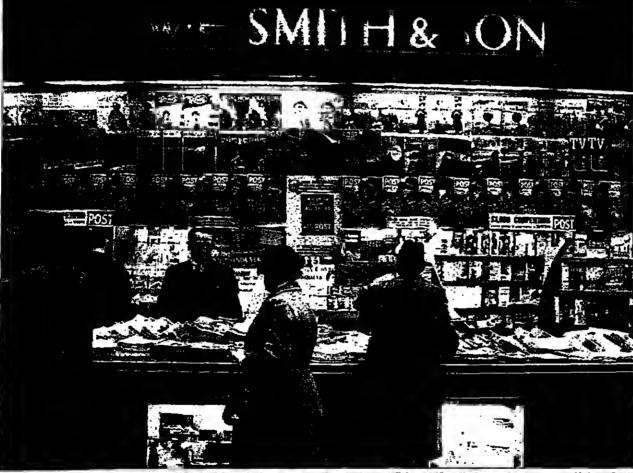
So familiar is this brilliantly coloured spectacle that we hardly notice it other than as a



kind of puzzle picture in which we explore the newsagent's mind to discover where he might have put the one mag we want. Yet seen as a whole, it is a cultural event as diverse and compendious as television or advertising.
WH Smith, which as whole-

saler supplies about a third of all newspapers and magazines, is clearly in the habit of seeing this coloured wall as a single, homogeneous mass. Under its "box-out" system it provides 20,000 independent newsagents with a more or less undiffereotiated mass of magazines. Some 80 of these titles are pornographic, a selection made by the company from the 300 to 400 published. In its own shops Smith, true to its respectable image, sells only four porn titles, but, as anonymous wholesaler, it goes further.

Others see the wall of magazines as possessed of more detailed moral significance. At Smith's last annual meeting the Campaign Against Poroogra-phy protested against the boxout system as a way of dumping porn on retailers whether they liked it or not. And now a group called Porn Free Newsagents and Convenience Stores is putting pressure on WH Smith to offer retailers a clearer choice not to sell pornography. Poro Free was set up by Hamdy Shaheen, an Egyptian newsageot, who says he wants WH Smith "to start behaving like its family business image".



On the rack? Campaigners want WH Smith to behave according to its traditional 'family image

In response the company has education and the author of the demand for restraint on what is up to its family business image improved its system for allowhugely successful The Book of

ing retailers to opt out of receiving some titles. In its old form this system failed regularly - embarrassingly it kept seoding Shaheen porn mags however often he prntested. But, of course, Smith will still

offer its 80 porn titles to anybody who wants them. The Campaign Against Pornography wants to stop the company doing this completely and Shaheen wants to han the sale of top-shelf titles to under-18s and to insist that they all be sold in sealed plastic covers. Applying moral pressure to companies in this way is an import from America. There the Christian right wing has attempted to call the hluff of corporate responsibility. Michael responsibility. Medved, for example, led an attack on Hollywood's obses-

grasp that they were heing asked rather than coerced. The

released oo video. That is a familiar exercise of power, the Virtues, simply pointed out to executives of Time Warner, the kind of moral pressure head higgest media group in the office can understand.
world, the awfulness of much of The Bennett appraa its violent and sex trash output. Time Warner, he says, was puzzled. The executives could not

The Bennett approach is to ask the executives what kind of people they are. Do they want to be remembered as godfathers of a violent, porno-

Pornography more than anything else shows the hypocrisy in liberal society

Stone's Natural Born Killers, for example, was held back from video release in this country not because Warner Bros

issue is not normally posed in is painfully difficult. As family terms of conscience. Oliver men in suits, they wish to he seen as respectable entertainers; as servants of the sharebolders, they feel a commercial imperative to exploit the marexecutives suddenly felt had ket for sex and violence. The about it, but because a large dilemma is precisely captured

The conflict is between freedom - either of the market or of the adult individual to consume what he or she likes - and virtue. The problem is that the word "virtue" is ambiguous. It is an awkward issue for, clearly, Smith can he accused of hypocrisy, flaunting respectability when its own name is attached to the sale, but happy to exploit the market when its rnle in the deal is concealed by the independent newsagent.

Bennett, Medved, Shaheen and the anti-pore campaigners have spotted this awkwardness and used it to embarrass companies that would rather have the contradiction buried by the anonymous complexities of the market. They have found a new way of making their case by publicising the rale of compa-nies as social institutions rather sion with violence. And William number of MPs felt the com-bennett, a former secretary for pany was ignoring their heen's call for WH Smith to live machines. The problem for the

society. The new moralists find this hypocrisy intolerable and yet a useful pressure point. Their sudden appearance as opponents of liberal capitalism indicates the extent to which liberalism is seen to have failed. For the anti-porn feminists liberalism has failed because it appears to institutionalise the exploitation of women. For fundamentalists it has failed because it does not provide special protection for their sensibilities. And, for the

> The corporate balancing act in all this moral anger and confusion has become more precarious than ever. WH Smith today finds itself wobhling awkwardly over a few mags. Silly perhaps, hnt, in these fragmented, media-driven times, moral apocalypse is everywhere, on every shelf, including

moral right, it fails because it is

ideologically incapable of applying a transcendental concept of

No case for state prosecutors

One of the features of our criminal justice system that impresses overseas lawyers is that serious criminal cases are not only tried before a jury of laymen, but they are also presented by someone who is not an employee of the state. There have, as Patricia Wynn-Davies and more recently Polly Toynbee have observed in this newspaper, been proposals to change this.

A key cog in the motor of these reforms is the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Legal Education and Conduct, which has advised on these proposals no less than three times in the past five years. Under the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990, the Committee, the majority of whose members are not practising lawyers, has a remit

to consider whether the proposals are consistent with "the proper and efficient administration of justice".

The Committee's most recent recommendation, in its June 1995 report, was that independent advocates (either solicitors or barristers) should continue to conduct the prosecution of the majority of jury trials. There remains a question as to whether specially qualified lawyers employed by the Crown Prosecution Service might conduct those Crown Court cases that do not involve a jury or involve the

ANOTHER VIEW

David Penry-Davey

of the Committee favoured this. The majority's principal concern was that the employed advocate's ability to maintain sufficient independence could be undermined or that he or she might become "prosecution-minded". The majority also took account of the need, in a modleast serious offences. A minority ern democracy, for the power of the public interest.

the State to be open to scrutiny. These are serious issues and it is not surprising that the Lord Chancellor and his fellow judges are taking time to consider them carefully. The guiding objective of any reform should be the prevention of ill-founded prosecutions or wrongful convictions and

the efficient conviction of the guilty. The Bar Council asks for no special protection, and has welcomed the advent of competition with solicitor advocates in the higher courts, to the extent that this will raise standards in

But it remains true to say that the Bar's low overheads mean that the state does have access to independent lawyers of high calibre without having to meet any of the associated employment costs.

That is consistent with the trend in the public sector, now accepted by sll parties in Westminster, of achieving best value for the public purse by contracting out services to specialist

I imagine the taxpayer will want this particular advantage to he maintained, whatever the outcome of the next general election.

The writer is chairman of the Bar

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DEPUTY BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: MICHAEL HARRISON

UBS chairman casts doubt on wisdom of merger

PETER RODGERS **Business Editor**

The prospect of a full-hlown merger hetween Union Bank of Switzerland and CS Holding receded yesterday when Nikolaus Senn, chairman of UBS, said he was sceptical about the henefits of co-operation with any rival.

As alarm mounted in the City about the threat of hig redundancies in the London ap-erations of the two banks if a £32hn merger did go ahead, Mr Senn said it was questionable whether joining with a competitur bank was an effective way to lower costs.

Boston and Credit Suisse Financial Products, employs 4,000. There are bound to be hundreds of London redundancies if a merger goes ahead, and there were reports yester-day that the total could reach thousands. Sources at the two banks said not even preliminary work had been done on the jobs

In an interview with the Swiss business newspaper Finanz & Wirtschaft, Mr Senn did not refer in any rival bank by name. But the interview took place

In London, UBS employs earlier this week, days after 2,500 and CS Holding, parent of CS after Gut, chairman of CS Holding, suggested to him that Holding, suggested to him that the two Swiss banking giants should discuss a merger.

The talks about creating the world's second-biggest bank were confirmed on Tuesday and UBS's board meets this afternoon to decide a response, Analysts displayed growing doubts but said there was still a strong possibility of the talks ading to moves that fall short

of a full merger. There is urgent pressure on the big three Swiss banks to deal with enormous overcapacity in their home markets and they are also anxious to huild international investment banking op-erations to rival the leading American houses.

One factor that could persuade the UBS board to keep the door open to talks is a shareholders' meeting in Zurich next Tuesday at which Martin Ebner, a dissident shareholder, will try to overturn the promotion of Robert Studer, the former

chief executive, to chairman. Mr Ebner has been complaining for years about low returns for sharebolders in UBS. The news of the merger proposal has overshadowed the shareholder meeting and is

seen by analysts as beloing effective at all and would lead UBS get Mr Ebner off its back to real cost reductions.

If the talks are called off completely, the focus could switch back to Mr Ebner and the vote on Mr Studer's new job. In

Switzerland, a win by Mr Ebn-

er has not been ruled out. Mr Senn was asked whether UBS believed a direct competitor would be a potential candidate for a co-operation agreement aimed at lowering costs. He replied: "It is not the job of the chairman of the board to comment on detailed questions of strategy. But it is fundamentally questionable

firmed a growing view in the markets - thought to be widely shared among UBS senior management - that the two banks overlap too much to make a full merger possible.

In London there are substantial overlaps in derivatives finance, CS First Boston is a more powerful force in the US. although there have been senior defections recently to UBS in New York. UBS bas a stronger corporate finance track record whether this kind of solution is in Europe. Analysts believe

15,000 retail banking jobs are at risk in Switzerland. Mr Senn also told Finanz & Wirtschaft that he believed UBS's retail banking activities had good

chances in Switzerland.

CS Holding shares, which got off to a good start after news of the merger proposal emerged, slipped toward the end of the day and ended lower LIBS charges were under and bond trading. In corporate er. UBS shares were under pressure from the start and closed almost 2 per cent lower. Dealers said the market was increasingly sceptical about the creation of a giant Swiss bank.

MATHEW HORSMAN

The Government is poised to re-lax the one-licence limit on

FM radio, industry sources said

last night. The move, expected

to be confirmed when the Broadcasting Bill is debated in the Commons starting next week, will benefit leading com-

mercial radio companies such as Capital, Emap and GWR, which have been campaigning for the change.

Under current rules, compa-

nies are limited to a single FM

licence in each relevant region,

in a hid to protect diversity and

choice. But sources said the

Government has been convinced of the need for liberali-

sation, particularly in highly

competitive markets such as

Londoo and in very small re-

gions, where separately owned licences are difficult to sustain.

The Radio Authority, which regulates the industry, has lob-

bied bard against the change. It insisted last night that the bat-

tle bad not been lost, and the

Government was still debating

cluding the eventual replace-ment of the total licence limit

by a ceiling of 15 per cent

across the mdustry, provided

more than enough scope for

growth.

Media Editor



strategy 'questionable

Government to

relax FM radio

Political row: Organisation distances itself from £50,000 initiative that sings the Government's praises

CBI snubs 'pro-Tory' campaign on economy

MICHAEL HARRISON

The Confederation of British Industry was embroiled in an embarrassing political row yesterday after refusing 10 endorse a campaign promoted by its incoming president. the British Airways chairman Sir Colin Marshall, extolling the Government's есопотіс record.

The CBI's frantic attempt to distance itself from the cootroversial initiative is certain to cause friction in its ranks and was seized on yesterday by Labour.

Also among the dozen leading businessmen who have lent their names to the campaign are Sir David Lees, chairman of GKN, and Nigel Rudd, chairman of Williams Holdings and the glassmaker Pilkington, both of whom are members of the CBI's policy-making president's committee.

However, a CBI spokesman said: "We cannot endorse this party political organisatioo.

business leaders in their own right and they are entitled to do what they want in that

The initiative is estimated to have cost £50,000 and involves sending out 50,000 copies of a glossy brocbure extolling the UK economy to other business leaders and opinion-formers

The booklet is accompanied by a letter from the Prime Minister, John Major, and is similar to the last Conservative Party political broadcast, which used quotes from foreign newspapers and companies praising the UK economy.

The two organisers of the campaign – Sir Tim Bell, chairman of Lowe Bell, and Peter Gummer, chairman of the pubwell known as senior advisers to the Conservative Party.

Andrew Smith, sbadow chief

secretary to the Treasury, said: The Conservatives can produce as many glossy documents as they like in as many differcampaign because we are not a ent guises but it will not make people feel any better about the Those who bave backed it are economy. The fact remains that







Never had it so good: Sir Colin Marshali (right), Nigel Rudd (top left) and Sir David Lees are feeling Better in Britain

bard-hit electors will not be convinced by brochures while they lic relations firm Shandwick, are are living with the Tories' dis-well known as senior advisers to astrous bandling of the

economy. Among the companies quoted are Siemens, Philips, Toshi-ba and BMW, which describes Britain as "currently the most attractive country among all European locations for producing cars".

Sir Tim said funding was

the Life's Better in Britain putting out Tory propaganda." Foundation while Lowe Bell did the printing and distribution.

However, Sir Tim denied that it was a piece of party political propaganda. In the sense that the Government is in charge of running the economic policy of the country it supports the Government. But

Sir Tim said subscriptions had who are not mentioned". But a BA spokesman said Sir Colin had not made any financial

through the airline. there has been no attempt to be duplicitous or to deceive here oamed are: Lord Hanson, The other businessmen

raised by Mr Gummer through and it is not a devious way of chairman of Hanson, Christopber Lewinton, chairman of TI, Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman come from the businessmen of Dixons, Sir Nigel Mobbs, whose names appear in the booklet and "one or two others Richard Oster, chief executive" of Cookson, Dieter Bock, chief executive of Londo, John Neill, chief executive of Unipart, and contribution either directly or Lord Sheppard, former chairman of Grand Metropolitan and now chairman of London First.

Comment, page 21

A spokesman for the Department of National Heritage, which is sponsoring the Bill, said the issue was under review and no announcement has been made. But at least two large radio companies have been told the concession will be granted. The Government is now considering how best to implement the change.

licence rules An amendment will be difficult to draft because of the huge eas. London, the largest market, sustains 28 radio stations, and is considered in a separate catcgory. Allowing two FM licences per company in the capital is believed to be acceptable to the Government, In

> diversity and choice are to be maintained. Large hroadcasters have tended to broadcast a contemporary hits service on FM and a "Gold" format oo AM. Following a relaxation in the rules, these companies could seek a second FM licence to broadcast

> other markets, the case is

harder to make, particularly if

their Gold service. There are very few FM licences still to be awarded by the Radio Authority. The last for London was advertised this year, and is expected to attract considerable interest, particularly ooce the one-liceoce lim-

it is lifted. Companies could also buy other liceoce holders, but would be forced to accept all the issue. It argues that other the licence conditions origipromised liberalisation, innally agreed with the Authority. After eight years, licences are put up for auction once again, allowing new buyers to

> Many broadcasters are eager 10 migrate away from AM, which is degged by poor reception, particularly in built-up areas. Said one senior radio executive: "You get to bear the courier's radio messages and then the sound is lost altogether when you go under a bridge."

Publicly quoted companies such as Emap and Capital could see their shares rise on news of further liberalisation.

Rentokil set to raise BET bid

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Rentokil is today expected to raise its £1.9bn bid for rival business services group BET by hetween 10p and 15p a share, in what analysts believe will be a knock-out blow.

The pest control group met key BET institutional shareholders this week and was told that the rise would be enough to secure their acceptance. Remokil's shares dipped 5p

to 363p yesterday in anticipa-tion of increased terms, which have to be announced by tomorrow under takeover At the current share price,

the existing offer of nine new shares plus 800p in cash for every 20 in BET values the latter at just over 203p. BET's shares are now well clear of those terms. even after yesterday's 0.5p fall left them

The expectation that the increased terms will he an-nounced a day ahead of the final deadline is likely to reflect Rentokil's need to organise underwriters far a higher cash rvers suggested that mare

One big institutional share-holder in BET said: "If there was an additional 10p to 15p nn offer a hetting man would say they [Rentokil] would win Another institutional holder of Rentokil said: "I think they will clinch it with a little hit more, but I wouldn't like to see much more than

Charles Pick, an analyst with Panmure Gordon, said: "1 don't think they can afford not to raise it. There bave been quite a few cases when just that little bit extra would have

He suggested an offer in-creased to 215p to 218p, giving an exit price-earnings ratio of around 16.5 on his forecast earnings of 13p for the current year, "would probably just

about be enough to clinch it". Both sides to the hid have been conducting a feverish round of visits to City share-holders this week, although at least one of the key institutions is not being seen until next week. It is thought that Rentakil will want to be able to come to that meeting with its

German economic gloom deepens

DIANE COYLE

The gloom hanging over the German conomy deepened yesterday with the eighth successive monthly rise in unemployment. But new doubt was cast on the Bundesbank's scope to cut interest rates by separate figures showing faster growth in

its monetary target.

Germany's unemployment total adjusted for normal seasonal variations increased by 26,000 to 3.99 million, a new post-war record, although the headline unadjusted figure fell to 4.14 million from 4.27 million

the previous mooth. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 10.4 per cent. The only comfort was the fact that the March increase was lower than many economists had feared.

Bernhard Jagoda, bead of the Federal Labor Office, said: The German labour market started its spring recovery in March hut it was fimited." He blamed factors such as the unusually cold weather and early Easter holidays, saying the outlook for jobs was not as hleak as the mood of gloom implied. However, some financial market analysts disagreed.

"Germany is going through what happened in the UK in the early 1980s," said Stepben King, an economist at the brokers

"Firms are laying off, not hir-ing. They will not start to rehire until they once again feel confident that Germany is a good place to invest," said Holger Schmieding at the investment bank Merrill Lynch in Frankfurt

Many forecasts predict rising joblessness throughout the year, even though growth is expected to pick up, because of underlying structural problems. The German economy is seen as over-regulated, with extremely high labour costs.

James Capel. Part of the solution to the unemployment problem would be deregulation and the reduction of social securi-

costs, he said. Views on whether the Bundesbank would react to the bad news ahout the economy were mixed because of figures yesterday showing that growth of its M3 monetary target was bigher than originally estimated. The money supply grew at an annualised rate of 12.8 per cent, up from a first estimate of 12.6 per cent, in February, compared with the final quarter of last year. The target for this year is 4-7 per cent.

Barfield to leave Standard Life

Dick Barfield, the high-profile chief investment manager at Standard Life, the largest mutual insurer in Europe, with more than £44bn under management, is to leave the Hc will be replaced by John

Thomson, who has been with

the life office for 13 years, late-

ly as assistant general manager

there were no hidden reasons for his departure, due at the end of June. Mr Barfield, who had been a campaigner for better corporate governance, had per-sonally decided to seek alter-native work outside the company, where he has worked

Sandy Crombie, general manager in charge of invest-ment to whom Mr Barfield re-

Standard Life said yesterday Dick's decision to leave with regret. He has served the company with distinction for more than 26 years and huilt for us a very

successful investment team." Mr Barfield said: "The time has come for me to have a change of direction. I feel very positive about the company ... and I am convinced that it will go from strength to strength both as an insurer and as a fund

change which allows me to use in a different capacity the knowledge and experience I have built up over many years." During his eight years as chief investment manager, Mr

Barfield huilt a reputation as a strong believer in the merits of better corporate governance among the companies Standard Life has invested in, depolicy on the subject earlier this

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'It must have given Michael Heseltine

much pleasure in signing up the News Corp chairman after all the cosying up Mr Blair has done to Mr

Murdoch'

The politicians clearly believe that there are more votes to be garnered from the information superhighway than just those of the anotak brigade.

Last October New Labour brought out its hig gun in the form of a pledge by BT to cable up every school and library in the land for free provided it was given the right to broadcast entertainment services on its net-

Now we know what the Government's secrel weapon is - an offer from cone other than Rupert Murdoch to place a satellite dish on top of every classroom in return for unfettered access to digital television - the technology of tomorrow.

BT and BSkyB are serious players and their willingness to line up on either side of

the political trenches speaks volumes about the opportunities, not to mention the profits, to be had from the superhighway. As an act on one-upmanship it must have given the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, much pleasure in signing up the

News Corporation chairman after all the

cosying up Tony Blair has done to Mr

But on closer inspection there is some-thing that differs crucially between the two pacts with BT and News Corp. In BT's case Labour first has to deal with the small matter of getting into power. It is only theo that the hard bargaining will begin. Meanwhile the party can bask in the reflected glory that comes from being in the vanguard of the

technology revolution, without actually hav-ing to deliver.

In the case of Mr Murdoch, however, the Government already appears to have delivered on its half of the bargain.

It may, of course, be pure coincidence that shortly after Messrs Heseltine and Murdoch hatched their plan over a discreet lunch six weeks ago, the Government introduced an amendment to the Broadcasting Bill that allows News Corp's 40 per cent-owned BSkyB full control of a licensed UK-hased satellite service. At a stroke this would allow Mr Murdoch to send a digital satellite into space to beam back to UK homes. This in turn would free capacity on his existing Astra satellites, which are operated from Luxembourg, for use by BSkyB and its European pay-TV partners whilst radically extending the depth and spread of its reach in the UK through the much greater capacity that dig-

The Government amendment could, of course, also give the Mirror Group the ability to operate its own domestic satellite service, but the most obvious beneficiary is

Panic on the streets of Zurich

Anxiety and alarm were rampant yester-day in the corridors of the Canary Wharf operations of CS Holding and the

Broadgate offices of UBS, three miles away in the City of London. This is hardly surprising.

Murdoch wins a battle in the satellite war

SBC's takeover last year of Warburg was a vivid demonstration of the pain caused by rationalisation in an investment bank. Large chunks of UBS and CS Holding's investment

hanking operations in London overlap.

The consequences do oot oeed spelling out for the highly paid employees of the two hanks. The next couple of years will be hell

if the merger gets off the ground.

The rapidly emerging consensus in Loodon and Zurich yesterday was that a full merger is unlikely to be achieved, regardless of what comes out of the UBS board meeting this afternooo.

Brokers' analysts who attended a meeting with Mathis Cabiallavetta, the UBS chief executive, did not come away with an impression of a man raring to go in for some Anglo-Saxon-style financial engineering and corporate restructuring.

The real difficulty lies not with integrat-

ing the investment bank offshoots in London and New York, where the synergies in corporate finance and equities may well out-weigh the disadvantages in overlapping fixed interest and derivatives businesses. On paper, the idea of what would essectially he a transatlantic alliance - because of CS First Boston's strength in New York - does look rather attractive for Swiss bankers with global amhitions.

The problem is with the overbanked

domestic Swiss market. UBS appears to have gone further down the road towards rationalising its branches than CS Holding, which has recently hought not one hut two smaller rivals in the home market and is in the process of digesting them. There does not seem much appetite inside UBS's boardroom for sharing the pain with another bank

that has not done as much or as fast. However, it would be dangerous to dismiss the talks as ephemeral, or to see the leak on Tuesday as no more than a ploy by UBS to take investors' attention away from Martin Ebner, the dissident shareholder who next Tuesday plans to vote against the election of Robert Studer as the oew chairman. This week's events may be the start of a longwinded process that does lead to some form

of co-operation and rationalisation. By all accounts, the pressure within Switzerland to sort out the overpriced, overstaffed and overbranched banking market is very great. The concern that something must be done is shared by the Swiss Banking Commission. For UBS and CS Holding even to discuss a merger is a hreakthrough

If UBS were smaller, CS Holding might short-circuit the board's opposition with a hostile bid which - contrary to widespread belief - is not completely out of the question in Switzerland, in spite of the country's very different views on corporate governance. CS Holding made a hostile hid for complexity of shareholding structures that rule out a hostile attack among the hig three

Colour-coding at the CBI

Memo to Sir Colin Marshall: You may not take over as president of the Confederation of British Industry until May hut the important thing to bear in mind always is that this is a "non-political" organisation. We appreciate that your Better in Britain

booklet is designed to promote our ecocomy and the joys of doing business here. But to the untutored eye it could look like a piece of Conservative Ceotral Office propaganda. Perhaps it has something to do with all that blue oo the cover or the accompa-

nying letter from Mr Major or the role of Sir Tim Bell in putting it all together. Or perhaps it has something to do with the booklet's striking resemblance to the last Tory party political broadcast and the cut of the other chaps who have lent their endorse-meot. Lord Hanson is, after all, not renowned for his socialist instincts.

The folk at the CBI run a mile from being hranded political animals, which is perhaps why they have declined to endorse your

But don't worry - you'll be seeing a lot of the president's council in the year ahead. Bank Leu in 1990. It is sheer size and the At least two of them are on your side.

Granada will take time over disposals

MATHEW HORSMAN

Granada, the media and leisure giant, is in no hurry to sell off £2bn worth of assets earmarked for disposal, Charles Allen, the company's chief executive, said

the real objective is maximising returns to our shareholders," he said as Granada unveiled its first trading statement since winning its £3.9hn hostile hid for Forte. the hotels and restaurants

company.

He said the company intended to drive a hard bargain with potential purchasers, and would not do deals at low prices, despite baving taken on dehts of £3.5hn to finance the takeover.

Cranada has said it would sell Forte's Welcome Break motorway service operations, its da and the Wontners were Exclusive and Meridien hotels good. "There isn't the antago-

and stakes in the Savoy Group and Alpha Airports, in order to reduce debt. Analysts speculated that Whitbread, the food and drink company, would be the leading contender for the Welcome Break siles.

"There is no timetable, and of the financial year, in Sep-

would be loated for the to per cent minority voting stake held in the Savoy.

The stakes in Alpha and the Savoy would be sold by the end tember, Mr Allen hinted yesterday. He identified a "strategic huyer" for Alpha, probably another airports catering company, and said a "buyer acceptable to the management and the owners"

The Wontner family, which controls the huxury hotels group. fought a long hattle with Sir Rocco Forte, who had attempted a takeover. Mr Allen said relations between Grananism that there was between Forte and the Savoy," he said.

The Meridien and Exclusive chains would be auctioned once a list of "pre-qualifying buyers" was determined. Mr Allen said sir kocco, wno has been seeking financing to win back some of his hotels empire, would be welcome to make an offer.

Mr Allen added that the company would easily reach its goal of enhancing profits from the Forte operations by £100m in the first year, by cutting overheads and centralising purchasing. Granada has already shed too jobs at Forte, and expects to make further layoffs. Granada has also pushed

prices higher at its botels and restaurants. But Mr Allen insisted consumers would be getting value. "If I have to pay £15 for an afternoon tea, it had hetter be good. At some Forte hotels, some of il was not."
In the hotels division, the



Madmun return, Charles Allen says there is no timetable for the 22bn of disposals

company has reorganised operations into three - London, UK provincial and overseas. Granada is planning to keep Forte's Travelodge and Posthouse chains.

The company reported no lasting effects from the BSE sales at Burger King outlets at sion and rentals, results were at its motorway service stations declined sharply in the few days

following the crisis. The end of the IRA ceasefire has had little or no effect on room occupancy, although Mr Allen said: "Personally, 1 was "mad cow" beef scare, although anxious about that." In televi-

or above expectations. Granada's two ITV licence holders, Granada Television and London Weekend Television, saw their share of national advertising reach 23 per cent in the first three months of 1996, up nearly

IN BRIEF

 Hundreds of Barings bondholders, who lost £100m when the bank collapsed last year in the wake of £800m losses incurred by rogue trader Nick Leeson, yesterday applied to the courts to start legal action against two Barings holding companies in administration. If leave to commence action is granted by the Companies Court, the bondholders action group plans to issue writs. alleging omission and untrue or misleading statements, against all Barings directors, including Peter Baring, Andrew Tuckey and Peter Norris. A decision by the court is expected in about two months. The bondholders also plan to issue writs against the three issuing houses involved: Hoare Govett Corporate Finance, Cazenove & Co and Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

 A handful of signs of recovery in the UK economy emerged yesterday, valancing earner gloomy figures on manufacturing out-put. The leading indicators for the economy rose in February for the first time in more than 18 months, pointing to faster growth later this year. Separate figures from the Finance and Leasing Association showed near-record levels of growth in finance for husiness investment in February. The FLA reported that demand for finance for new plant and equipment jumped by 63 per cent in the 12 months to February, to £917m. There was a huge rise, of 291 per cent to £317m, in finance for projects over £5m. Demand for high street credit and new car finance remained strong.

 The Government has ansed almost 200m from the sale of its residual stakes in six water companies. SBC Warburg won the auction to buy the shares in a single block, bidding slightly above Tuesday's closing prices, and is thought to have already placed the stock. The shares disposed of represented around 1 per cent or less of Hyder (formerly Welsh Water), Anglian Water, Southern Water, Yorkshire Water, Thames Water and United Utilities. The Government has retained stakes in South West Water, Wessex Water and Severn Trent because of potential hids.

 Japan's current account surplus shrank in February thanks to strong import growth and an increase in overseas travel by the Japanese. The surplus for the month was ¥745.9bn, 39 per cent lower than a year earlier. Imports of goods soared by 46 per cent during the 12 month period, compared with a 16.6 per cent rise in exports. The deficit on trade in services rose to ¥510.9bn, up from ¥417.4hn a year earlier.

• Former Walt Disney Studios chairman Jeffrey Katzenberg is believed to have filed a suit against the Walt Disney company claiming he is owed 2 per cent of profits for many of the movies, TV shows and other deals he made during his employment at the group. He estimates that 2 per cent will come to \$250m.

 The price of oil jumped to its highest since November 1991. The price of the benchmark Brent crude for May delivery jumped \$1.10 to \$21.80 a harrel by 6.15pm. Oil stocks have been severely depleted by the hitter winter. The price has also been influenced by US refinery problems and the expectation that United Nations talks about Iraqi supplies will not reach an early agreement.

Brussels looks set to block Lonrho-Gencor merger

MICHAEL HARRISON

Speculation is mounting that Brussels will block the planned link up between Lonrho and South African group Gencor to create the world's second higgest platinum producer.

It is thought that the European Commission's mergers task force has come down against the merger and that its

decision was backed by a meeting on Tuesday of an advisory committee consisting of com-petition policy officials from member states.

Lonrho sources indicated ounces of platinum a year. However, that may not be

yesterday that both bodies had blocked the merger, which would create a grouping with production of about 1.6 million

it could ease the way for the world's higgest platinum producer to increase its stake in Lonrho's mining operations when the planned demerger from the group's trading and ho-tels business takes place this

Anglo-American already owns 10 per cent of Lourbo and is thought to want to raise its

entirely bad news for Lombo as stake to just under 30 per cent. Last month Anglo snapped

up Tmy Rowland's 5.9 per cent stake in Lonrho for £91m and secured first right of refusal to huy chief executive Dieter Bock's 18.5 per cent stake should he decide to sell.

Lonrho refused to comment on suggestions that the South African group was now seeking to secure a fixed price option on

the Bock stake though analysts believe he would sell out if offered £2.50 a share.

But analysts said it was clear that Anglo was intent on emerging as a significant minority shareholder in Lourho's platinum, gold and coal mining operations when they are demerged from its trading and ho-

tel businesses this summer. "It would be very happy,

own about 30 per cenl of the mining companies," said one Johanneshurg-based analyst. The main attraction for Anglo is Lonrho's 41 per cent

when the hreak-up occurs, to

stake in Ashanti Goldfields but it also has a majority stake in coal producer Dulker Exploration and is merging its plat-inum interests with those of Geocor of South Africa.

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by phone.

• Trailfinders will process your request and confirm if your favoured option is available, in which case Trailfinders will reserve your flights. You will then have 5 working days to pay for your flights in full and to surrender your 2 for 1 voncher. Final payment can be made by cheque or maior credit card.

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Uncertain market for Smurfit

The outlook for the paper cycle has seldom been so uncertain and Jefferson Smurfit, the Irisb paper giant, is not alone in being unable 10 guess "whether the recent industry inventory correction represents a de-stocking pause or the end of the cycle".

After soaring last year, prices in some areas of the industry have come rattling back down again. Pulp, for instance, is now selling for around \$500 a ton compared with \$925 in October. At the same time there is no shortage of ca-pacity, particularly in the US where new plant is set to further increase supplies of the corrugated board used in pack-

ing cases.
All this gloom is hard to reconcile with Smurfit's bounding optimism six months ago and yesterday's an-nouncement of record 1995 profits to-talling Ir£420m (£433m), the highest ever seen by an Irish company. But Dermot Smurfit, joint deputy chairman, refuses to be downheat.

Certainly, the group has world-leading positions in areas ranging from boxes and cartons to the container board that goes into them. It also supplies much of the paper used to make its own products, helping to reduce exposure to the more volatile parts of the paper markets. Smurfit points out. for example, that the fall in price of corrugated boxes - from around \$873 a ton in the autumn to \$820 now - is nothing like the drop in other areas. Smurfit's wide geographical spread also helps to spread risk.

Those strengths meant the group was able to cash in on last year's price recovery, although the results were distorted by acquisitions and a change of year end in 1994. The first full 12 months of Cellulose du Pin, the paper and packaging operations of Saint-Gobain acquired for Ir£684m in 1994, hoosted profits from continental operations from 1r£34.6m to Ir£195m last year.

Even so, with a return on capital well in excess of 20 per cent last year, the group has a fair chance of achieving its target of 15 per cent across the business cycle. The problem is that, given the integration of the world-wide industry. Smurfit's strengths become weaknesses in a downturn. Along with rivals, Jefferson Smurfit Corporation, the group's 46 per cent-owned separately-quoted associate in the US,

had to shut mills at the end of last year. Profits cut to 1r£260m this year would put the shares, up 3p to 163p, on a lowly forward multiple of 10. Apart from uncertainty over the cycle, Smurfil's rating suffers from the group's state of limbo between the Irish market, which it has clearly outgrown, the UK and the US. The expected appointment

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

lefferson Smurfit; at a glance

of a new chief operating officer in the next few months will belo clear up corporate governance worries in the UK, but it bas most half shareholders' funds. still not been fully welcomed into the British investment community. A recovery may be some way off yet.

A smart turn-out from Moss Bros

In a low inflation, highly competitive swear market, producing an underlying 9 per cent rise in sales was an impressive performance from Moss Bros. Coupled with a healthy opening programme, and on a relatively fixed cost base, profits really took off, jumping 53

per cent in the year to January.
The £11.3m pre-tax profits for the 12month period represented a 31.3 per cent return on shareholders funds, a chunky improvement on last year's 22 per cent return and a massive increase on the 5 per cent return on assets recorded in the bleak days of the early-1990s recession.

Investors shared in the good news with 50 per cent rise in the full-year divi-

Earnings per share (IR pence) 12.2

Dividends per share (IR pence) . 0.6

Operating profits

5-year record

Pre-tax profits (IR£m)

That financial security underpinned the addition of 22 shops last year to take the total to 129 by the year end. A further 10 or 12 are planned every year for the rest of the decade and the company is confident the intrinsic operational gearing of the business will ensure that mar-

gins continue rising during that period.
How Moss Bros has bucked the trend on the high street is something of a mystery, explained only in the vaguest terms by the company – providing better service, creating a welcoming atmosphere – but no one will argue with the figures. The Moss Bros formula, now spread over Savoy Taylor's Guild, Suit Company and Cecil Gee, is working.

Investors who have seen the shares rise almost eightfold during the past three years certainly bave no gripes. Since the beginning of 1993, the shares have outperformed the market by more than 300

per cent, rising from 139p to yesterday's 795p, up another 36p on the day.
What Moss Bros seem to have got right is to realise that shopping for most men is a hit of a penance. Making the dend to 18p (12p), almost four times the payout five years ago. Despite heavy, and rising, capital expenditure, strong

1994

1.71

2.7

Share price

29.6 28.0

3.03

way. With prices rising by a negligible
3 per cent last year, volume is the key,
so an increase in market share from 7
to 9 per cent and a further jump in sales
per employee are encouraging signs.
On foresest profits of £14 3m this

On forecast profits of £14.2m this year, the shares trade on a prospective ple of 15. That represents an 8 per cent premium to the rest of the market, but in the context of 26 per cent earnings growth it is justified. Still good value.

Yule builds on its reputation

Yule Catto has managed to reduce earnings per share only once in the past 15 years. Most investors will be happy to forgive the chemicals group that one blemish on its record, particular-ly since it related to losses on a Dutch building products subsidiary in 1993 when the construction industry was

bardly booming. Yesterday's figures for 1995 served only to reinforce the group's solid rep-utation for growth. Pre-tax profits up 16 per cent to £33.1m for the 12 months to December were only a tad less than expectations six months ago, despite a ferocious year for raw material prices. Styrene, one of the group's key inputs, doubled between the second and third quarters and has since come back down to where it was at the beginning of the year. It was therefore hardly surprising

that Yule suffered a margin squeeze of more than 1 per cent in the second half. It did well to bold the drop in operating margins over the year to just 0.2 per cent, leaving them at a still healthy 8.8

The continuing recovery in building products, which encompass businesses like roof lights, office partitions and sheet plastic helped the figures. The division did well to raise profits from £6.3m to £7.61m in the face of a dismal UK construction market, reflecting continuing benefits from sbaking

up the business three or four years ago. The outlook should now be set fair for a period of more stability for the group. Order books on the building side are back to "sensible" levels, chemical volumes look like holding up and, more importantly, steadier raw material prices should allow margins to bounce. Profits of £38m this year would put the shares, unchanged at 336p, on a market rating of 14.5.

Still reasonable value, although the 20 per cent family holding and 29 per cent held by Kuala Lumpur Kepong. a Malaysian plantation group, make for

Nationwide makes sharp cut in bid for lost youth

CITY DIARY JOHN WILLCOCK

Nationwide Building Society hit the headlines for two reasons this week. It introduced the lowest mortgage rate since 1965 and its chief executive, Brian Davis, 51, shaved off his moustache.

There is no connection at all," Mr Davis protested unconvincingly yesterday.
"Shaving the mortgage rate just happened to coincide. I've shaved the moustache off before – the last time was a year ago, for charity. I'll have to wait for my family's verdict to see whether I grow it back. Some people say it makes me

The last thing the Liberal Democrats like is to be upstaged by Labour, and so yesterday the Lib Dems wrote to SBC Warburg with their plans for "reacquiring a controlling interest in Railtrack" following privatisation. Labour already know their own plans will he included in the prospectus to be published on

Monday, under the heading political risk". Bankers were haring around SBC Warburg yesterday working out the implica-tions of the Lib Dem "me too" statement, but were at a

loss as to whether they would also figure in the prospectus. The best they could come up with was: "Certainly political risk will be fully addressed." Peter Gummer, chairman of

spin doctors Shandwick and brother of John Selwyn Gum mer, the Environment Secretary, was the man behind the Tory propaganda booklet sent out yesterday in which a

dozen businessmen extolled the Prime Minister, John Major. The wheeze was dreamt up hy something called the "Life's Better in Britain" foundation, which should have its work cut out with the agricultural sector.

Mr Gummer was unavailable for comment yesterday he was on holiday in Mustique, leaving fellow Tory PR adviser Sir Tim Bell to field calls.

British Airways' chief executive, Robert Ayling, will be named Advertiser of the Year by the International Advertisng Festival, a spokeswoman said yesterday. The chief of "the world's favourite airline" will receive the accolade in June at the Cannes International Advertising Festival.

The next time you're in a jet about to take off and the air hostess starts explaining bow to tie the life jacket on, take a closer look. If it's a Virgin

flight to the US it could be Reuters has undergone an image overhaul "to reflect the group's contemporary character and meet the design requirements of multimedia." One master stroke is to establish two corporate colours: blue and orange. Calour is all-important, as Alliance & Leicester Building Society separately insists in a recent piece in Money Marketing, A&L has found out that

Spot the difference: The two faces of Brian Davis Lisa Leeson, wife of Nick Leeson, the derivatives trader who brought down Barings Bank.

Lisa applied in the usual way - the normally publicitymad company insists it was an unsolicited application" and bopes to get on the Sin-gapore route so that she can visit ber incarcerated bubby.

Virgin said vesterday: "She will fly on trans-Atlantic routes initially and as with all new Virgin Atlantic cabin crews, Lisa bas to complete six months' service before qualifying for concessionary Virgin flights and one year before receiving discounts on other carriers.

In these days of complaints about glass ceilings and the lack of women in top management, full marks to FI Group, whose shares slarted trading yesterday and where four out of the top five execu-tives are female.

FI has 17 per cent of the UK market in Standalone Applications Management" according to UBS, which in English means it provides support for specific computer systems to third parties. Chief executive Hilary Cropper, deputy chief executive Jo Connell, director of business expansion Lyn Barrat and group marketing director Tri-cia Gardom lead the charge.

FI shares well ahead on first day

City Editor

The conservative pricing of the terday's closing price. group F1 on the stockmarkel yesterday ensured a handsome profit for a handful of institutional investors as the shares jumped to an immediate premium. They closed at 300p, 65p above the placing price.
Other beneficiaries of the

million shares in FI. Her stake was worth over £15m at yes-

Hilary Cropper, chief execu-tive since 1987, saw the value of her 917,000 options soar. The exercise price of those options, which were granted between 1988 and 1993, range from just 27p a share to 44.9p a share. In addition to her options, Ms Other beneficiaries of the Cropper has a heneficial inter-flotation included Mrs Steve est in 764,000 shares, worth

ORANGE ONLY GIVE

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(BUT, HEY, THEIR BILLS

ARE TWICE AS LONG.)

CELLNET

valuable share stake for Sir Peter Thompson, the former chairman of NFC and since 1990 FI's non-executive chair-man, whose 890,000 share holding is worth almost £2.7m. Deputy chief executive Jo Con-

nell's holding was yesterday valued at £1.5m. A buoyant market debut bad been expected for FI after initial soundings by joint sponsors UBS and Granville came up with demand for six times the

pany in 1962 and still owns 5.3 The flotation also created a 7.9m shares that the company Although the price at which finally decided to place.

Investors focused on the strong growth in profits from FI in recent years as it has cashed in on the increasing trend for companies to contract out their information technology requirements. Unlike some other parts of the computer sector, the facilities and applications management work that FI specialises in has reliable, predictable and currently fast growing revenues.

FI closed yesterday represents a substantial multiple of forecast earnings for the year ending this month, strong profits growth in the year to April 1997 is expected to bring the rating

On the basis of forecast earnings of 11.3p this year the shares stand on a prospective p/e ra-tio 27, well in excess of the ratings enjoyed by most of FI's peers, including Logica, Capi-ta, Misys and Sema.

IN BRIEF

 Rank said yesterday trading in the first quarter was satisfactory and it saw encouraging prospects for the current year. The leisure group's annual meeting gave chairman Sir Denys Henderson the opportunity to welcome the government's recently published consultation document on bingo and casinos: "It is not yet clear how much of it will become law but potentially it is good news and should address many of our concerns." Yesterday's meetng was the last for Michael Gifford, who bands over as chief executive to Andrew Teare, the former head of English China Clays

 Zeneca Agrochemicals has been granted its first registration for Amistar, a new broad spectrum fungicide. German authoritles bave given approval for its use on cereal crops for the con-trol of diseases which can seriously reduce crop yield and quality. Test marketing of Amistar will start in May. The market for fungicides for cereal crops in Germany is worth around \$320m a year, about six per cent of the world market.

 Headlam, the floorcoverings and fahries company, announced a 33 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £7.7m, despite what the company described as "generally difficult economic conditions" an Kirkham, chief executive, said: "The resilient results achieved during 1995 demonstrate yet again the group's ability to succeed." Headlam's shares, which at the beginning of 1992 traded at just 36p closed 15p higher yesterday at 248p.

 Ruberoid, the waterproofing systems group spun off from Tarmac in 1993, announced lower pre-tax profits of £8m (£8.4m) in the year to December. David Kendall, chairman, warned that the cold weather at the beginning of 1996 would also prevent first half figures matching last year's result. Despite the lower figures, the dividend for the year increased from 6.0p to 6.1p, reflecting the resilience of our manufacturing and distribution businesses and the ability of their management teams to react to dis-

 Hammerson, the property developer and investor, has acquired a 93.2 per cent interest in Markisches Zentrum shopping centre in Berlin for £81.5m. The acquisition, which comprises a suburoan sbopping centre within a major retail complex built in the 1960s, shows an initial yield of 7 per cent. It is almost fully let with a quarter of the shops currently let at rents below the mar-

	COMPA	NY RESULT	S	
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EP\$	Dividend
AAF Industries (F)	21.3m (41.2m)	-0,95m (2.9m)	-4.34p (12.25p)	1월 (6월)
Alpha Alirports (F)	553m (477m)	20,6m (21.4m)	9.24p (10.03p)	5p (4.8p)
Headlam Group (F)	122m (110m)	7.7m (5.8m)	12.8p (10.1p)	4.8p (4p)
Intermediate Capital (F)	- (-)	19.1m (18 1m)	27.6p (26.3p)	13.4p (11.5p)
Moss Bres (F)	87.5m (71.1m)	11,3m (7.4m)	42.53p (27.83p)	18p (12p)
Reect (F)	1 <u>6.9m (14.5m)</u>	0.02m (0.21m)	0.01p (0.16p)	Ug (zg)
Reberold (F)	240m (240m)	8.0m (8.4m)	10.4p (11.9p)	6.1p (8 p)
Soutry Parentag (F)	7.32m (7.01m)	1.5m. (0.98m)	22.8p (15.6p)	5.19 (3.49)
Yain Catto (F)	391m (331m)	33 Im (28.5m)	20.3p (17.3p)	8p (Tp)
65) - Secol (A) - Interiors	(III) . Nine months			

Recovery in luxury car market motors on

house buyers are lured by some colours, like hine, and put off by others, like hrown. And A&L's unique corporate colour

scheme? Blue and orange. The "Reuters to buy building soci-

cty" rumours start bere.

The recovery amongst Britain's luxury car makers bas continued into 1996 with Rolls-Royce reporting a 12 per cent rise in volumes so far this year and Jaguar announcing plans for a

big increase in Japanese sales. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars said it had sold 396 cars across the world in the first three months of the year, up from 353 in the first quarter of 1995. Sales were up in all areas except Japan and continental Europe, the company said. In Japan, 30 cars were sold in the first quarter of 1996 compared with 35 in the same period of 1995. On in the same period of 1995. On the Continent, sales totalled 42 cars in the latest period, down from 55 in the same period a

year ago. The overall figures continue a trend of rising sales seen last year, when Rolls launched its most expensive car ever, a £220,000 Bentley. Sales in 1995 of 1,556 cars represented a 10 per cent increase on the year before. The recovery at the luxury car subsidiary from loss-es in 1991/92 has helped drive much of the profits growth at Vickers. The tanks to baby incubators group headed by chief executive Sir Colin Chandler reported 1995 profits up twothirds to £75m last mouth. with the automotive side almost doubling from £21 m to £40.9m. However, Rolls-Royce sales support were still only around half the growth.



Sir Colin Chandler: Rolls drove the profits rise at Vickers ...

level of 1990, before the subsidiary hit problems.

Separately, Jaguar Japan, a subsidiary of Ford's British luxury car maker, said it hoped to boost local vehicle sales to 8,000 units a year by 1999 from around 2,500 at present. It said it planned to double its sales outlets to 80 by 1999 to support the forecast sales

The announcement is further good news for the West Midlands-based car maker, which last month won £72m in Gov-ernment aid to support the manufacture of a new model in

The X200 mid-range Jaguars will be built on new assembly lines at the company's Castle Bromwhich works and are set

Alpha stake sale confirmed

Flat pre-tax profits at Alpha Airports were overshadowed yesterday by confirmation from Granada that it plans to sell its 25 per cent stake in the airport services group by September, as one of the first of its planned disposals. Granada inherited the holding when it acquired Forte at the start of the year.

Briefing analysts yesterday, Gerry Robinson confirmed that Granada planned to sell the Alpha investment on to a "strategic buyer" some time before its own year end in September. The sale of Alpha would mark the latest stage in a dramatic consolidation of the airport services industry, which over the last year has seen the number of large players haive through takeover. Alpha's shares nudged 2p higher yesterday to 121p after

difficult trading highlighted in a profits warning in February which dashed bopes that a firsthalf setback would be recovered in the second balf. Problems arising from the industry's consolidation have been com-pounded by airlines putting the

squeeze on suppliers. In the year to January, Alpha's second as a public company following the spin-off from Forte, pre-tax profits slid from £21.4m to £20.6m despite a 16 per cent rise in turnover to £552.9m. Earnings per share fell to 9.24p (10p), but strong cash flow allowed a final dividend of \$2.55 to be raid, making a to 3.25p to be paid, making a total for the year of 5p, an 8.7 per

cent increase. Hardest hit was catering services, where Alpha struggled to make up for the loss of an £11m contract with British Airways at JFK Airport in New York, That the company confirmed the contract represented about 50

per cent of the group's turnover at JFK and its loss contributed to the fall in catering profits from £13.9m to £10.3m.
The chief executive, Paul Harrison, remained optimistic,

however: "We expect catering to improve as growth continues across all sectors of aviation services. Airlines enjoyed a better market in 1995/96 and that is set to continue. I believe the industry has reached the bottom of its cycle."

Retail services fared much better, with operating margins, up from 2.9 per cent to 3.2 per cent, pushing operating profits £1.4m higher to £9.7m. During the year, Alpha reached agreement with the government of Sri Lanka to buy 60 per cent of Orient Lanks, the airport duty free operator at Bandaranaike International Airport, where Orient has a 10-year concession on the sale of duty free.

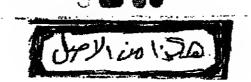
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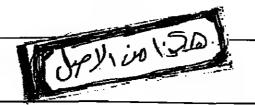
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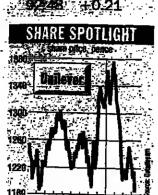
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1896.1 +4.4 SEAO VOLUME 814.8m shares, 34.746 bargains ill's Index



British Petroleum helped to inspire blue chips as the booming crude oil price spurred its shares to the highest level m their history.

Only four years ago BP was down in the dumps with its shares bumping along at 182p. Yesterday they climbed 6.5p to 586p in busy trading.

Oils have been strong as crude prices have made steady progress. With Brent riding above \$21 a barrel - the highest for nearly four years - and expected to go higher, the oil flame could prompt explosive share performances.

Shell gained 7p to 878p and Enterprise added 5p to 450p. The excitement helped to produce an 8.8-point gain to 3,767.4 for the FT-SE 100 index, leaving it just 13.9 from its peak. The blue-chip index, measuring the 100 top shares, has lagged behind the secondliners since stretching to a

record in February. But the

the behaviour of the next 250 shares, has with almost monotonous regularity ventured to new highs. It managed yet another with a 10-point gain to 4,387.1.

There was also just a hint that the elusive "feel-good" factor had filtered into the stock market. Building and related shares, if somewhat belatedly, enjoyed the latest shots in the mortgage war and an upbeat Confederation of British Industry report contributed to the more buoyant atmosphere.

The odd takeover story continued to do the rounds and many investors remained captivated by thoughts of share buy-backs and the payment of special dividends. In a lively media sector

Mirror Group led the field with a 12p gain to 232p in busy trading. There was the usual talk of a bid, with Carlton Communications the favourite to



MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN Stock market reporter

of the year strike. But an investment meetwould the Scottish banks, the

ing attended by David Mont-Royal Bank of Scotland and gomery, Mirror's chief the Bank of Scotland, Royal executive, in New York was probably the main influence. to 257.5p. Banks firmed on the merger talks between Switzerland's

two biggest banks, Credit Suisse and Union Bank. Standard Chartered was a leading beneficiary, jumping 13p to 650p. The market alighted on the story that Switzerland's third banking power, Swiss Bank Corporation, would respond to any new alliance by hitting the takeover

Standard, down to 292p a year ago, would be a clear candidate for SBC's attention; so

rose 13p to 504p and BoS 4p The feeling was that SBC would be particularly attracted to a UK bank, to allow it to build on its main London acquisition, the merchant bank

SG Warburg. Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food and soaps giant, missed the fun. The shares fell 10p to 1,185p, just above their 12month low. The BSE crisis has taken its toll but the market is more perturbed about the group's pedestrian trading

Water shares drifted lower

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as the Government sold many broker Killik & Co expect a big of its residual shareholdings,

raising £75m. Warburg took on the shares, in Anglian, Hyder, Southern, Thames, United Utilities and Yorkshire, for on-sale to institutions. Interests in three water companies where takeover action is threatened have been retained. Biggest of the stakes was 3.5 million shares in

Mercury Asset Management improved 28.5p to 916p as Merrili Lynch made positive noises and MIFI, the furniture group, continued to draw strength from Kleinwort Benson support, gaining a further 5p to 171p. British Biotech had an un-

comfortable session, retreating 58p to 2,380p, but Cortecs International rose 23p to 310p following what appeared to be a significant step forward in its testing of an orally delivered drug for osteoporosis; stock-

Oil Exploration

marketing deal to follow. First-Bus feli 2p to 178p as James Capel placed 700,000 shares at 179p and London Scottish

Bank lost 3.5p to 106p following a 650,000 placing by Bar-clays de Zoete Wedd at 106p. Rexam, the paper group, put on 7p to 403p as Swiss takeover hopes lingered and Alvis, the defence group, rose 5p to 168p on persistent bid

speculation. FI, the software group, made a stunning debut; placed at 235p the shares shot to 300p in brisk trading. But an-

A Californian diamond other newcomer had a much more miserable time. Placed last week at 240p Avocet Mining fell a further 14p to 213p.

Queens Moat Honses firmed to 23.75p and Sentry Farming rose 44p to 218p on a profits jump and a planned acquisition. Signet, the jeweller, gained a further 2.5p to 33.5p on disposal hopes.

The Independent Index

Television Corporation is hugging new highs at 139p. Hopes of profit upgrades are

in the air. US deals are likely soon and some believe current estimates of £2.9m for the year to end June are too cautious and a figure nearer £3.3m will be substituted.

| IFlying Flowers, the Jersey-based distributor of fresh flowers, is near to making a substantial acquisition; the shares shaded to 177p.

mine, expected to become a top producer, should bring a sparkle to Waverley Mining. Shares of Diadem Resources, the operating company, have surged from \$2 to \$7 and are now more than \$5. Waverley has more than 3 million of them and the apsurge adds around 10p to its assets per

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Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is lest year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) mitio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

Other details, xr Ex rights x Ex-dividend xa Ex all u Unlisted Securities Market a Suspended pp Partly Paid pm Nir Paid Shares.

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CHELTENHAM

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Weight of the world hangs on the lucky Chancellor Kenneth Clarke has earned himself a reputation as a good Chancellor of the Extension as a coord chancellor of the Extension as a coord coord of the intension of the coordinate of the office is the fact that feet in organization. If for the dream accounts of the coordinate of the coord

he feels no great need to be doing something all the time. This lack of activism recognises an important truth about the UK economy: it depends far more on what happens in the rest of the world than what hap-

pens here. The Government's dependence on external events to set the economy to rights has been partially recognised. A recent article by a Labour peer, Meghnad Desai, stim-ulated a debate about whether the Government will be able to cash in on an improvement in the state of the economy before the election. Thanks to windfalls such as maturing Tessas and free building society shares, Lord Desai suggested, a consumer spending boomlet and housing market revival could replenish the electorate's reservoir of feel-good just in time to end the Conservatives' drought at the polls. The question of whether Mr Clarke's famous luck will hold in the run-up to the election, however, de-pends on far wider events than these stimuli to consumers. The course of business cycles in the rest

its to policy in the UK. This balance can tilt either way either a dream or a nightmare for a Chancellor hoping to retain office. For the US and the Europeao economies are tugging in different directions. They are at different stages of their economic cycles, and the timing will be everything in their impact oo Britain.

The US is pulling out of a tem-

porary slowdown into what looks like an impressive new spurt of recovery. The American jobs machine is working overtime, with an average of 206,000 new jobs a mooth created so far this year, compared with 142,000 a mooth towards the end of last year. Incomes and spending have risen, while survey evidence is turning favourable. The remaining weak spot is manufacturing industry.

Meanwhile, Europe's biggest economy is on the brink of recession. Yesterday's figures for German un-

chairman Alan Greenspan normally seeks an increase in interest rates. Mr Greenspan has typically raised short-term rates once the economy is creating more than 200,000 new jobs a month. In a presidential election year he is likely to be extra cautious about policy changes, adding a slight hias towards inaction.

Meanwhile the German slowdown could prod the Bundesbank into reducing its official rates, a move that other European countries in-cluding the UK could follow. If low-

A few twists in the world economy would turn the dream into a nightmare

Interest Rates

employment and other recent indicators have confirmed expectations that GDP will be flat this year.

Other Continental economies are slowing down along with their most important market. Although they are less ridden with gloom than Germany, high and lasting unemployment across the Continent of the world will both influence growth here directly and set the limsymbolises its economic woes. Most forecasters predict a European re-

covery - hut oot yet. Mr Clarke's dream scenario will be realised if the US recovery is oot too fast and the European slowdown not too severe. If US growth stays around the pace it has set in the first quarter of this year it will have reached the point above which Fed

er rates worked quickly, British exports to the rest of Europe would oot be too depressed either.

The growth outlook can be painted even brighter when other areas of the world are taken into account. Bullish economists at the US investment bank Morgan Stanley think world GDP growth will be oearly as strong this year as last, and could return next year to its fastest since the late 1980s boom. They predict continuing recovery in Japan, a swing out of recession in Latin America, and further rapid expansion in Asia outside Japan. This last area accounts for a bigger share of world GDP (23 per cent) than Europe (21 per cent).

flation until after Britain's general election. Mr Clarke would be able to carry off for a few crucial months an extraordinary balancing act. He would be able to present growth near his 3 per cent target and inflation within spitting distance of the 2.5 per cent target. This would confound almost all of the economics profession and make the Chancellor look lucky on a visionary scale.

However, a few twists of timing and degree in the world economy would turn the dream into a nightmare. If the American economy accelerates to the point where the Fed feels forced to raise interest rates, and if the Bundesbank thinks recovery will come soon enough that it does not need to cut its rates, there would be pressure for an increase in Britain's base rate. Exports to the US - 13 per cent of the total last year

would perform well, but exports to the EU - 58 per cent of the to-tal - would remain sluggish. Britain's recovery would be delayed.

Tighter monetary policy would become essential if two other things happened. One, inflatioo might head upwards early. Monetarists head upwards early. Monetarists have pointed out that policy has loosened across the globe. Although the general level of commodity prices, a classic early inflationary warning signal, is lower than a year ago, food and energy prices are rising again. The Bank of England's UK-specifications of the prices are rising again. ic commodity index has started to climb and was up 3.5 per cent in the year to December. The oil price is

at its highest since the Gulf War. Secondly, there could be a Euroexchange rate crisis brought on by

tensions over the creation of a single currency. The foreign exchange markets see sterling as a weak cur-rency, prone to political risk, and the pound would dive along with the

Italian lira and Spanish peseta.
So if the timing went wrong, the
Chancellor would face the prospect of having to tighten policy at a time of sluggish growth – or admit that he had given up oo his inflation target. (There would certainly be siren voices urging him not to sacrifice growth for the sake of shaving an extra percentage point or two off Which will it be, dream or night-mare for the Conservatives? The straws in the wind are pointing Mr Clarke's way. For every piece of bad news about the strength of the British economy, there is a counterbalancing piece of good news. This means that a decent recovery from the pause at the end of last year

Yet the pick-up is unlikely to be strong enough or happen soon enough to feed into higher inflation ahead of the election. The most pessimistic forecast for the target mea-

is under way.

year - from the former "wise man" Wynne Godley - pots it at only 3.3 per cent compared with the 2.5 per cent target. SG Warburg's economists have inflation rising to a still reasonably modest 4.2 per cent by the eod of 1997.

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So Mr Clarke could well go down in history as a lucky Chancellor as well as a good one. However, it is far from an odds-on bet that all will turn ont for the best. It would take only small changes in the world economy for Mr Clarke to turn out - like Labour's last Chancellor, Denis

Foreign	Exc	hang	e Rate	es			
Sterling				Dollar			D-Mark
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot
US	15165	8-6	22.19	1000	_	_	0.6668
Canada	20594	11-3	50-37	13581	2-1	2-0	0.9056
Germany	2.2743	55-48	57-147	14997	28-26	80-78	10000
France	7.7305	140-TB	371-340	50978	64-57	164-154	3.3992
Italy	2383.1	75-90	221-246	15715	57-64	170-162	1047288
Japan	16453	75-70	225-218	10849	45-44	136-133	723445
EĆU	12171	15-11	45-40	12460	7-8	23-25	0.5352
Beigium	46.722	12.9	34-29	30.610	58-48	172-147	205441
Denmark	8,7772	138-95	411-317	5.7880	60-40	175-125	3.8594
Netherlands	25404	63-54	189-175	16753	32-29	96-91	1,171
Ireland	0.9686	9-5	25-20	15657	3-6	6-10	0.4250
Norway ·	98289	146-64	329-233	6486	42-17	110-60	43219
Spain	19019	39-48	117-134	125.42	32-36	97-105	83,6301
Sweden	10176	9-15	23-34	6.7103	98-123	260-310	44744
Switzerland	18448	68-60	197-185	12165	38-35	111-105	08112
Australia*	19226	20-31	67-85	12677	19-21	54-56	0.8453
Hong Kong	11,726	101-61	224-170	72327	2-12	15-35	51562
Malaysia	38278	0-0	0-0	25242	4-14	60-80	16831
New Zealand	2.2244	43-57	133-156	14667	30-32	88-90	0.9780
Saudi Arabia	56875	0-0	0-0	3.7505	2.7	9-14	25008
Singapora	21371	0-0	0-0	14093	41-30	103-88	0.9397
Other S	pot	Rate	s				
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Brazil	1500	28	0.9894	Pakist	an 5	ZA019	345454
Chine	12.638	35	83318	Philipp	ines 3	9.7683	262300
Egypt	525	8	34405	Portug	a 2	33677	154095
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Ghana	23915	14	157780	Aussia	7	429.78	4888.00
Greece	36737	В	242190	South	Africa (53520	4.1875
India	5171	10	341000	Taiwar		12278	27:1790
Kuwait	0.455	4	0.3002	UAE		557131	3.6728

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Tourist		tes	15 Pa	N/R		15 F4	·		
Tourist E Buys	Ra	77	£ Bu		7,9100	E Bu		Dellars!	21700
Tourist E Buys Nobale(Dob	Rai	18850	Franc	P(France)		New 2	(paland	(Dollars)	
Tourist E Buys Australiz(Dolle Austrin(Schille	Rad	18850 154500	Franc Germ	o(France) my(Mark	s) 2250	Norw	Zeekand ry (Kron	m)	95200
Tourist E Buys Justinis (Dolla Justinis Galain Belgium (France	Rad	18850 15A500 45A000	Germ Greec	er(France) erry(Mark ex(Oracini	s) 2250 ne) 3610000	Norwi Norwi Portu	reland ry (Kron pel (Esc.	er) edos) 2	9.5200 29.5000
Tourist E Buys Lustral (Dolle Lustral (Schille Belgium (Franc Curada (Dolle)	Rai	18850 15A500 45A000 2.0150	Germ Greec Hong	er(France) erry(Mark co(Orachu Kong(Oci	s) 2250 nei) 3610000 lare) 115800	Norw Norw Porse Spain	Passia (Passia	er) (2006) 2 6)	9.5200 229.000 185.0000
Tourist E Buys Websie(Doller Austria(Schiller Belglum(Franc Carada(Ooller Cyprus(Pounc	Rai	18850 154500 454000 2,0150 0,7000	Germ Greec Hong Ireland	er(France) eny(Marko ce(Dracho Kong(Dol d(Punts)	s) 2250 nei) 3610000 lare) 115800 09400	New 2 Norw Porse Spain Swed	(Kron pel(Esc. (Paseta en(Kron	sr) xdos) 2 s) or)	9.5200 229.0000 185.0000 10.1000
Tourist E Buys Australigother Australischildr Belglundfrand Corneda (Dollar Cyprus (Pound Dermark (Kror	Radi	18850 5,4500 45,4000 2,050 0,7000 8,5800	Franc Germ Graec Hong Iralan Italy(L	er(France) eny(Marko ex(Oracivo Kong(Ool d(Punts) Jns)	s) 2,2150 nei) 361,0000 flare) 11,5800 0,9400 2350,0000	New 2 Norw Portug Spain Swed Switz	Zeekond zy (Kron pel (Esc. (Pesete en (Kron erland (F	et) ados) 2 s) or) raince)	9.5200 229.0000 185.0000 10.1000 1.7850
Tourist E Buys Australischildrichildr	Rail	18850 154500 454000 20150 0,7000 8,5800 2,4750	Franc Germ Graec Hong Irelan Haly(L Jeper	o(France) wry(Mark co(Orachir Kong(Dol d(Punts) Jraj i(Yori)	s) 2.2550 nei) 3610000 lears) 11.5800 0.9400 2350.0000 163.0000	New 2 Norway Portug Spain Swetz Swetz Turkey	Zeekond ay (Kron pel (Esca (Pesete en(Kron erland (F r(Lira)	et) ados) 2 a) or) raunos) 866	9.5200 229.0000 10.1000 17.850 100.0000
Tourist E Buys Australischildrichildr	Rail	18850 5,4500 45,4000 2,050 0,7000 8,5800	Franc Germ Graec Hong Irelan Haly(L Jeper	o(France) wry(Mark co(Orachir Kong(Dol d(Punts) Jraj i(Yori)	s) 2,2150 nei) 361,0000 flare) 11,5800 0,9400 2350,0000	New 2 Norway Portug Spain Swetz Swetz Turkey	Zeekond ay (Kron pel (Esca (Pesete en(Kron erland (F r(Lira)	et) ados) 2 a) or) raunos) 866	9.5200 229.0000 185.0000 10.1000 1.7850
Tourist E Buys Australischildrichildr	Rail	18850 154500 454000 20150 0,7000 8,5800 2,4750	Franc Germ Graec Hong Irelan Haly(L Jeper	o(France) wry(Mark co(Orachir Kong(Dol d(Punts) Jraj i(Yori)	s) 2.2150 nei) 351,0000 0.9400 2351,0000 163,0000 0.5400	New 2 Norway Portug Spain Swetz Swetz Turkey	rentand ay (Kron pel (Esca (Peseta en (Kron erland) (F ritira) i Stesse	er) (dos) 2 e) (or) (rance) (Bollers)	9.5200 229.0000 10.1000 17.850 10.00000 14.50
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Contract		_		ment ice		ligh/L for di	DHI TY		Conta rded	Interes
Long Offit	Liun	969	105	-5	105-2		105-09	3	5528	110168
German Bond	Lin		BE	148	965	9651 962				216719
TG Bond	(Jun	96	12	103	1193	11910 11882		2097		0
taken Bond	(An	950	710	143	1106	7	7000		3155	45320
3M Stering	un	965	93	84	839	3	9394		8826	B1161
	(Sep 96)		83	26	93.7	•	83.75		1257	58724
3M Euromerk	M Euromerk (Jun 96)		26	180	889		96.79		:176K	221482
	(Sap			10	96.7		9671	2	5960	22452
EGU				56	95.5		95.52		1107	8488
	(Sep			100	95.5		95.49		384	3628
Euro SFr	(Lim			313	98.#		9811		5273	27328
FT-SE 100	(Jun		37		3784	0 37590		1	0818	58021
FT-SE 250	Çim		440						D	3519
Burotina (Jun 98)		98)	90	90.85 96		90.79			8831	37778
Litte F1	-SE	In	dex	Op	tion					
Settlement p	rice: 37	765.0		ck	sing of	for p	rice			Call/Put
Series			3700)	3750		2800	38	50	Total/vola
Nor			73/7		35/19		11/47	25	31	
May			101/3	31	89/48		43/74	24	106	
lun			1245	3	84/72		68/96	48	/124	
М			148/7		117/90		81/15	69	1142	•
Energy	Т									
Brent Crude PE 530cm	(S/be			OM (\$/1 close	oruse)	ΜÜ	Barn	Product Spot Cal	NW Eu	(\$/tonce)
Any 2160	+1198	1658	AUX	_	+0.25	May	2385	Leeded	Gasolin	e 223/22
APT 1981	+0.50	1855	Mary	15375	+475	Jan	2180	Naphth		202/20
M 1867	+037	1853	Am	74.23	+450		2040	EC Gas		18479
						Jey				
Voi: 56,563 *shor \$30pm;	Index:		Volt		A17	Aug	1850	Heavy I		109/11 oppioes
Commo										Indices
OOM	Ban	-	+50	at &	chg Day	31 1	Dec %	OTY pro		
ndex	HA)=		212		-0.61	203		+455	182.28	+1672
artcutture!	1970		300		-063			+664	26313	+7358
nergy	1863=		75.		-0.61			+5.28	6199	+212
	1977≃		295		+0.83		132	-3.50	206.72	1003
	1870=		188		198	_		+2.97	17257	+905
ndust i Matals Nestock										
ivestock Troctous Melats		100	502	5	-080	486	IRG	+256	50759	-102

Industr	ial N	feta	Is			London	Moted (Scheng
	S/lorne	Cash	3 milita		Volume	LIME Sto	ds _	chg
Alaminkan HG	1500	5-935	16255-26	5	35938	757025	i +	8100
Aluminium Alloy		950-80	1390-140	0	757	80800	+	
Copper A		495-87	2490-9	7	66850	317425		1950
Lead	82	75-295	805-0	6	7992	89975		1775
Niciol	7	985-95	8070-8	Û	8727	34710		- 98
Tin		320-30	6350-8		5046	9210	+	60
Zinc	1053	15-545	1078.5-7	9	12188	623960	, .	3575
Settlement exchange ra		on £/			\$A4 340	Stock volume as at Tues 9 /		ge in ton
Precio	ıs M	etal	5		· .		Spe	nk & So
per the June		£	Coins	3	£			3
Platinum	40630 2	6730	-	409	270	Krogrands		97 254/6
Pallaclium			Britannia.5 o		134	Sova		95 60/6
Silver spot	546		Britannia 25		67	Nobles		r14 2637
Gold Bulh	396 2	5862	B mannie,3() c	nt 52	34	Maple Leaf	396/4	09 261/
Agricul	tura							CMS
Cocos	Coff		Bark	7	Pot	lovi	Pobst	oes.
LCE Charms	LCE	S/kon	ne LCE	£honne	LCE	£horne	ADA (GH-100kg
Mar 979	Mar	186	9 Mar	110.75	Apr	165.00	Apr	22
May 1001	May	184	1 May	108,70	May	22500	May	23
July 1023	July	183		10.65		105.00	- Juan	25
Vol: 3,550	Vol	3,80	8 Vol:	40	Vot	126	Vol:	321
White Segar	Pyrely	plat.	Whee	t	Con			
LCE Storm	LCE	Statutes	DI LCE	£Ausen	CBC		rts/buehe	
May 440.50	Mar	145	Mer	12345		HKo		Settl
Aug 38520	Apr	138		12636	Mar	44650-43		44300
Oct 340.90	Vol:	133		114,00	May	43775-42		42900
Volt: 5,169	Inde	150		765	Jel	382.00-37	0000	37900
Other S	ofts	;						•
Mar Make	No3**	C/reve	1465	[Apr	San	OIS FL	/100kg	9560
Mar/Aor Coors		S/karne		Mar/A		onut Ol (t) \$		745.0
	n (NY) U			April	Sin	Nover Olle \$	/loane	5750
Apr Wooi		cent/kg	6730	May		FigliO beeze		. 95.0
May Rubb		cert/kg	366.5			andhut Oil S		9050
					•	Courses FT Indos		

China	126385	82	3318	Philippines	39.7683	202	300 I	-
Egypt	5.2158	14	405	Portugal	233677	1540	195	Ta
				Oatar	5.5205		415	
Finlend	7.1103		5874					£E
Ghena	239194		7:80	Aussia.	7429.78	4896		Aus
Greece	367.378		2190	South Africa	63520		875	Aus
India	51,7110	341	1000	Taiwan	412278	27:17	/90	Bek
Kuwait	0.4564	0.3	002	LAE	557131	3.57	728	
						ento		Com
Forward rates of					act from spot	Lenc	- 1	Cyp
rate quoted low			MUTT:	GOO IX	spot rate		- 1	Den
*Dollar rates qu				NA 404 0000			1	Hot
For the latest for Calls cost 36p p	reign excree	ige rausi	to) 48o	Officer tierres				Pré
Cans coor sob t	Set timering fo	supah is	אסד נטו	Original Caresta				
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Stock	Şell	Buy	Yld	Stock	Sel	Ouy	Yld	200
AXA Equity & Lan	a tind Tours	fanace.		Managed Fund	7830	8117	c2.80	FP.
AXA Equity & Law I	ing Corneration	n SP.	•	Menaged Fund		10626	d2.89	FP
Coventry CV1 100				UK Growth Fun	kds .			(Ac
Tel: 01203 563231				Smaller Cos Sculler Cos Acc	47.57		d183	140
General Acc	640.7 5619	6912 5672	d2.56 d2.56	STREET COS ACC	56.73 84.65		62.66	(Ac
General Inc UK Browth Acc	4403	4000	d2.77	UK & General UK & General Ar	122,85	130,05	d2.05	(Ac
UK Growth Inc	2895	308ø	d2.77	UK Growth	10024	19249	d146	77
Higher Inc Acc	7895	8399	d4.23 d4.23	Europe Growth	routh Funds 214.12	22773	d061	(Ao
Higher Inc Inc Offis/Pid Ing Aco	4307 2049	458.2 216.4	d586	For England Grow			d003	(Ac
Gits/Fad int inc	9163	9684	d5.68	Global Bond	8205	8721	d568	Ste
Nith America	3671	3906	d000	Global Bond Acc			dEBS	(Ac
Europe	3532 4930	3758 8246	40.38 4000	North American	T251		q0000	/40
Japan Thi Acc Pacific Basin Thi A		45716	d0.78	Oriental Growth	8843		d0.26	(Act
Brit Excell	8730	92.88	291	Warkfwiche Grow	th 75.62		400	(Ac
Brit Findmile Acc	1145	1219	d481	Workhede Grow	th Acc 7917	84,22	4020	Gert
Brit Findmills Inc	78.40 103.8	6350 1105	0481 023	Other CU Unit 1	Drugts (Non PP County 112:16	113.73	000	19-14
Global Opps Balanced Acc	63.00	6703	d2.65	CUDOS Japan S CUDOS UK Scul CUDOS US Equi	ty 108.33	10834	227	Tel: 0
Ratenced Inc	<i>9</i> 954	63.35	d2.86	CUDOS US Equi	Ny 11090	112.35	103	UK Briti
Bardaya Unicore	Unelted			Deposit Fund	81.54		6529 6529	Briti
11 Broadway, Stratt Tab 0181 5345544	lgraf, Landon, E	16 4BJ		Deposit Pung Ad Homemaker Fun	_	9783	154	Pre
Balanced Trusts				Quiter Pund	753.66	163.40	181	Da
Blast Inv Fd Acc	6681	804.2	249	Clufter Fund Acc	160.67	1924	191	UK
Stat Inv Fd Inc	454	435.8	249	GU Morley (Intel Exempt Unit Trus	y Geottray Mor	21210 LH	259	UK.
European Bd Acc	9500	78.2 98.35	66 06	Smallester Ha	n Marrie (he		- 1	Lva Ext
Europeen Bd Inc Exempt	80.67	15.92	3.51	Framiliogton Uni 196 Bleiropagate,	London EC294 3	FT	- 1	High
Finencial	9614	102.8	241	THE 0171-374 4100	, December of 171 2	20 9340		Hotel UK Glob
500	5023	5431	d2.40	American Growt	n 7836	83.24	9000	200
General Property	3173 2419	3397	d2.52 d8.29	(Accum Units) Amer Smir Cos	78:15 68:10	7070	300	Env
Trustee	2192	2342	234	(Accum Units)	675.3	7222	000	Gla
Income Truets	4.4	-		Capital Tet	3743	3964 5628	d124 d124	Got
Cash Acc Cash Inc	121.8	1218	531	(Accum Units) Cond Smile Cos	5475 6547	89.79	0.75	Ow
Distribution	112.2	1128	o824	(Accum Units)	6006	7384	0.75	Ame
Extra income	1330	1422	d4.87	Convertible	1404	1494	5.16	Eur
Gill & Fixt Int	5689 682.7	58.69 623.2	d8.25 489	(Accum Units)	2961 E 702	3(7) 750	200 200	Ami
Income Suilder	68.66	73.24	d5.4	(Accum Units)	70,43	76.25	000	Hon
inii income	70.76	7530	301	(Accum Units)	1447	1527	086	Ped
Growth Trusts - 1	UK 1875	745.7	212	(Accum Units) Exempt Balance	1515 d 7684	1808 7747	257	6
Capital Growth Acc	425	4400	229	(Accum Units)	8071	82.29	257	Mar
Leiman (Z)	1724	1844	0.85	Extra income	3805	4048	3.75	Lon
Recovery	4806	514.0 68.40	206	(Accum Units) Financial	502.3 1616 ·	1719	3.76 0.40	UK
Smir Cos Acc Smir Cos Inc	63.78 54.98	5856	204	(Accumulinity)	7711	1820	040	UK
Special Site	376.7	4029	136	(Accum Units) Gilt Trust	62.72	6467	d6.77	Am
Growth Truets - I	1718	1826	0.21	(Accum Units) Health Fund inc	948 2750	293.8	68.77 600	Sup
Amer Recovery A		134.7		Health Pund Acc	2730	2938	000	Inde
Aust Acc	286A	3074	21	Income & Growt	h 2280	242.6	322	From
Aust Inc	1739 2017	185.7 2141	21 085	(Accum Units)	3665 437.3	3793 4865	3.22	Ame
Euro Gwih Acc Euro Gwih Inc	188.8	198.3	958	Indi Growth (Accum Units)	4856	6179	000	Paci
Jepen & Gen Acc	195.7	1754		Japan & Gen	187.9		4000	Inde
Japan & Gan inc Japan Spac Sta	1638 7527	173A 7973	d	(Accum Units) Mod Distribusion	7696 Inc 5396	2017 6 5704	439	Ende
Worldwide	1983	211.0	055	(Accum Units)	56.66	69.89	433	Inde
"Also knows as Inc		æ		Managed Portici	la Inc 1206		d145	Ove
Baring Fond Man	agen, Ltd			(Accum Units) Monthly Income	130.5	2012	d1455	Ger Man
PO Box 631, 198 Bi London ECZM 3YS	- charleger			Quarterly Income	56.42	8051	4440	Mac
Eng: 0171 762 8450				(Accum, Units)	3692	3949	08	K
American Growth American Smir Co	126.5 165.0	133.7 176.0	95	Cuerterly Income (Accum Units) Recovery (Accum Units)	4359	486.2	0.5	UK
Convertibles	59.63	64.95	d49	UK GROKEN	بصخف	69.76	209	Ame
Eastern	3276	3524	0.3	(Accum Units)	695	7894	200	Japa Eur
Equity Income	94.30 386.0	8007 3684	38	Friends Provide	nt Unit Trust N	lanegers i	.td	Flore
Europe Select	3263	3467	19	Enterprise Hee, let Portementh Hants	PO1 2AW	4	- 1	Inde
Exertact	103.7 102.1	1085 1032	30	Enquirtue: 01705 8	81340 Dealing: 0	1705 Be131	10 I	Dep
Exempt Flood Into German Growth	36.61	92,07	26	Enquiries: 01705 8 PP Menaged Po Capitel Gwith Ac Open Capitel Gw	C 126.10	13410	124	Eme
Globel Band	68183	73.45	86	Open Capital Gv	vth Acc 130.20	138.50	CTE	Bro
Global Growth	1693 2133	287 2275	04	Cap Gwth w Inc	ome inc 11860	2610	251 J	Bris
Japan Growth Japan Surnee	1099	181.0	0.0	(Accum Units) Open Cap Gwith	1240 wire inci2020	132.00	251 364	Do (
Korea Trust	75.71	52.53	0.6	(Accum Units)	12650	13450	354	8rte
Porticilo Porticilo Acc	1444 2703	154.7 269.6	23 25	FP Unit Truste				Do (
UK Growth	9660	1039	26	FP American (Accum Units)	68.44	6334 7068	039	5
UK Smaller Cos	91.5	9E17	25	FP Armer Smile C	os 19820	21190	000	Gove
Select Managers Charity Fund	59.45	94.78	d10	FP Agian Growth		32310	000	4 Bet
Overseas Geth E	sempt 75.56	7664	Ç1	(Accum Unke) FP Australian	314.20 411.50	33800 44150	000	UK
Commercial Unic	on Triant Mann	CETÀ		(Accum Unites	48530	499.20	000	UKS
Prestige Portiolis Income Punds	o (PPT Punda)	Ī		FP Euro Gith (Accum Units)	272.40	28870	0.25	Britis
	101.98	19360	d4.75	(Accum Unital) FP Equity	29720 44500	31680 47330	253	Ame
Equity Income Equity Income Act		72171	d4.75	(Accum Units)	96450	102606	253	Gree
Pred & Correction	ia 40.51	4310	46.74	FFRAM Inst UK Sn	CO Inc 10420	10530	203	Peg
Fixed & Convt Ac	0 12732	13545	06.74	(Acoum Units)	104.00	10880	203 504	Euro
Monthly Income P Monthly Income P		51,61 25,00	成母	FP Insprinttional I (Accum Units)	Bond 60.20 162.60	63.70 171.90		US I
Preference Share	46.50	4847	d896	(Accust United) FP Inst Gwith	38.52	4143	504 0.30	FFS
Profesores Share	Apr 299.51	30799	d805	(Accum Linits)	58.68	8049 246.70	0.50	Man
Balanced Funds	13266	50113	dGD4	FP Pacific Basin . FP income	ACOUM 252.70 54.53		483	Gee

Ø	0.5400 Unite	d States	Dollars)	14850	Source: Bolds
	Lat	est	· U	nit	Trus
YH	Stock	348	Buy	Yld	Stock
000 550	Hong Kong Index Hong Kong Beer	98.507Q 58.6834	\$92380	3.50 3.50	OMdens (Accum Live
550	UK Index	C134236	E14.1771	475	(Accum Urra Educy Incom
135	Japan Index US Index	COLUMN	CE450	3.50	Furnoses A
MACO.	Centr UK Beer	03-5790 03-62-58 03-62-58	\$196196 \$26263 \$5.7637	525	Function Critical
154	Jepen Beer US Beer		5345/3	000	(Accum Units Extra Yeard
254 254 253	Dotar Bull	EMBORE	ETS/SAS	5.25 4.76 000 3.50 3.50	(Acount Units
257 177	Dollar Bour GR Bull	\$5,5831 \$11,2856	£75,6346 £78,5490 £71,8568 £72673	475	For Eastern (Accum Units
177	GR Bull GR Bear	DE0065	\$72673	4.75	Pund of Inv B
478 478 471	Legal & General (UT II Rayleigh Rd, Hotson, I Enquiries: 91277 22730 Costs Accust	G. HICHOOK	s) Ltd		(Accum Units General
277	Cesh Accust	5799 56400	91277 990 6799 -	555 dz.60	(Acoust Units GR Income
	Equity Det Equity Accum	14900	\$0000	也即	Gold Units
	Equity Income UK Tectosi Allocation	10470	17140	4.50	(Accum Units High Income
	European Fer Eastern		6834	110	(Accum Units
147		34720 52.53	28300 5585	4730	(Accum Units Intl Growth (Accum Units Interruptions)
2.80 2.80	Gib Global Growth Ind Board	8554 9654 9495	92.96	025	Marca and 1 1989
351	hd Band	5495	58.35	6.38	Accum Units
364	Rorm American	7768 205.10	219.20	9007	Japan & Gen (Accum Units Japan Smale (Accum Units
766 576 312	CIK Index	127.79 7436 171.80	216,20 135,80 7796 116,70	22.55	Managed Inco
\$12 619	UK Recovery UK Smeller Cos	17LB0	16330	123	Michand
	UK Stockmarker Acc US anden	85D7 8112	63.07	131	(Accum Units
129	European Index	9707	9805 46.22	178	PERCENTY
145	European Index Jepen Index Vioridade	43.78 8614	40440	142	Second Gene (Accum Units
143	Livyde Bank Unit Tru Mountbetten House, Ch	of Menag	ece LM		Smaler Cos Piccum Units
176 100	Tat: 01534 838000 Death	re: 01534 i	13 (31)		Tresury Trustee
100	Belanced Inc Belanced Acc	38400 81960	419.20 978.40	25 25	(Accum Units)
100	Belanced Inc Belanced Acc Contl Europe Gr Inc Contl Europe Gr Acc	73.52	8A03 9043	0.61	Martin Currie
100		250	30130	406 406 283	Martin Currie 20 Cectie Terre Edinburgh, Srif Tet (121 225 St
E54	FT-SE 100 Inc FT-SE 100 Acc	76150 11740	134.90 127.30	263	THE STEEL SEE
183 103	German Growth Inc. German Growth Acc	1940 19730 14480 64890 65580	14620	263	European (X)
132	Growth Portlolio Inc Growth Portlolio Acc	64850	152.30 (57/90		Nth American For East (4)
101 200	Hardy Information	9473 9727	706.30	4790	
197 189 180	Income inc	\$4290 \$4290	19580 57790	4790 797 341	Emerging Mar and Growth UK Growth
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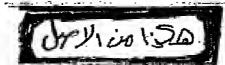
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Sluggish

Sampras

made to

struggle

Pete Sampras, the top seed, and the defending champion, Michael Chang, both looked

sluggish as they reached the sec-ond round of the Hong Kong

Sampras lost the second set

before heating Sehastien Lareau, of Canada, 6-1, 3-6,

6-1. His fellow American Chang

defeated Marcos Ondruska, of

Sampras won the first set cas-

South Africa, 7-6, 6-1.

Tennis

Open yesterday.

'Dream time in morning rush hour

Sue Montgomery sees Classic hopes in a spring ritual on Newmarket Heath

Whispering hoofbeats at dawn, and Newmarket's age-old rituand Newmarket's age-old ritu-al is is underway. With the first racecourse trials for the Classics less than a week away, the pulse of this 2,500-horse town in Suffolk and the pace of life on the training grounds have quickened perceptibly in recent weeks

And yesterday morning was the busiest yet, as some of the names which may become household ones went through their elegant paces on the hal-lowed Limekilns. The first horses to emerge were almost hadows in the half-light, but the substance was soon revealed under a fitful, watery sunrise.

The Limekilns, so-called after the ancient brickworks on the site, are the carefully guarded jewel amid Newmarket's 1,500 acres of gallops. Here, the turf has lain undisturbed for centuries, and has a unique

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

CHELTENHAM 2.30: Emotions would run high in the winners' enclosure if the veteran Mole Board won this, the final race of his career. But unless rain softens the ground, BORO EIGHT. a fresh horse who acts well on fast going, can come out best for his ca-pable trainer.

GIELVENHAM

3.05 Viking Flagship

SIS

HYPERION

LEADING TRAINERS WITH BUNNERS: D Micholson — 38 winners from 190 run-

1.55 D I EQUINE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £6,000

| 20060 271 57 PCHBITY VARUE 2-4,291 | 0-0152 | PIVE TO SEVEN (USA) (12) Five to Seven Partnership C Thomain 711.10 | P Carbony 0.4300 W000F0000 GALE (AZ) (Lody Logy Webbert N Herderson B 11.9 | MA Fibryariald US1402 CERTAIN ANALE (LAG (The Pyltom Syndicate) P Hobbs 7 11.5 | R Downson's 11.52 | R Bradley 11.52 | R Br

Admirtum weight: 10st. True himp weights: Flagfack (ad St. 13b, Admirtum Gale St. 8b. hver Coud St. 6b. BETTING: 7-2 Mr President, 4-1 Flye To Seven, 5-1 Cartain Angle, 11-2 Roomell Bay, 7-1 Martin-um Galo, 12-1 Poldan Pride, 14-1 Flughack Lad, Woodford Gale, 40-1 tavet Cloud. 1986: Super Mair 7-10 0 8 Powell 12-1 (B Mechan) 11 ran

1985: Super Mart 7 (10 to 8 Power 12-1 to Mechant 11 no FORM GUIDE Mr President will be strongly fancied, but this can go to POLDEN PRIDE, a gelding with winning form on the course, a fast-ground specialist and representing a jockey-trainer combination that can do kittle wrong at present. Polden Pride has been rested for this fast, ground and, apart from a course win from DOC's Dilemma in September, Polden Pride also enjoys

2.30 MITTLE GROUP HURDLE (CLASS B) £7,500 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £5,069

3.05 FAUCETS FOR MIRA RADA SHOWERS SILVER
TROPHY CHASE (CLASS A) (Grade 2) £30,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £20,286

1 113224 TRANADO (29) (C) (As P Sternood) N Harderon 10 11 7 _______ AP McCoy
2 431121 Value RASSHP (13) (C) (Roach Foods Limited to Notobon 9 11 7 ______ AP McCoy
3 2P-22P1 GALES CAVALER (22) (Stadigs Risong) 0 Gardollo 8 11 4 ______ M Dryor
- 3 declared -

4.50 Forestal

1.55 CERTAIN ANGLE (nap) 3.40 Tara Rambler 2.30 Boro Eight 4.15 General Rusty

ing wet winter weather, and its opening by Jockey Chib Estates its guardians - in the spring is zealously awaited each year by local trainers. Imagine a roughly triangular

open sweep, bounded by tall beech hedges on two long sides, with the apex by the traffic lights on the junction of the Bury and Therford roads, and the base, more than a mile distant, a strip of Douglas pines marking a track between the Limekilns and the adjacent Waterhall gallops. The land is undulating, mimicking the descent into the Dip and rise to the winning post

of the Rowley Mile racecourse. After daybreak, during the two hours between seven and nine o'clock, an industry gets to work. The first string to appear yesterday was that of David Loder, reduced - despite the

3.05: Travado, 11 lengths behind VIKING FLAGSHIP at Cheltree. But after a hard season he will find it difficult to concede 24lb to the lightly-raced TARA RAMBLER nham, may well get closer today but is unlikely to get past David Nicholson's tough Aintree winner. Sally Hall's novice is progress has plenty of speed.

000

3.40: Strong Promise has excellent 4.15: GENERAL RUSTY likes to credentials for this, having only just failed to hold Urubande at Ainhear his booves rattle and should win this if the going remains fast.



Workers on the production line are put through their paces on the Limekilns at Newmarket yesterday

10015D

appearance of the old maestro den's Derby colts, Sacho, Pom-mard and Lord Of Men, strut-Lester Piggott on Prince Of Andros - to the role of a supporting act. For the stable star, Blue Duster, does not work until this morning. From other yards came

cameo performances of varying quality. Classic Eagle, the flag-bearer of the troubled Classic Thoroughbreds ownership company, finished ahead of his companions, but had his ears scrubbed off to do so. The game handicep mare Lap Of Luxury appeared to thoroughly enjoy herself in what proved virtually a solo spin. John Gos-

ted their stuff on Tuesday, but yesterday the Stanley House Oaks prospect Kerry Ring caught the eye in her breeze with Catumbella. Another filly, the Michael Stoute-trained Dance Sequence, seems to have

progressed well over the winter and finished clear of her group. Luca Cumani's filly Papering has developed physically over the winter, more markedly than Mons, the stable's Derby hope. But the Bedford House star yesterday was undoubtedly Smart Alec. The four-year-old, due to

run at Newmarket's Craven meeting next week, powered six lengths clear of Midnight Legend and Suplizi without apparent effort.

But the main action was yet to come. As Henry Cecil took up station on his grey hack, surrounded by a posse of acolytes on foot, the big guns from Warren Place appeared like indians on the skyline nearly a mile away, tiny figures forming into groups of three and four for their charge towards the watchers. One's sympathies were with Custer. In the first wave, all eyes were

The second Cecil sweep concerned the middle-distance three-year-olds, notably the stable's three Derby hopes, at this stage kept apart. Big, rangy Silver Dome, with McGlone up looking for Bosra Sham, and the

1,000 Guineas favourite did

not disappoint. The chestnut fil-

ly was not asked much, but the

manner in which she cruised

alongside the colt Storm Troop-er with Tony McGlone sitting

motionless was noted by most,

and by the end of the day the

again, was first past, lying up with four-year-old Minds Music. Then came Commander In Chiefs half-brother Dushyantor,

well-oiled bookmakers' telegraph from Newmarket had ensured her Classic price had contracted from 7-4 to 6-4. pleased with his morning's work. Yesterday the Limekilns was still a field of dreams.

ily enough against the world No 127, but lost concentration and three successive games at the end of the second. But the world No 2 increased the temstride for stride with the filly So-lar Crystal. And lastly, Bright po in the deciding set and a stream of outright winners Water, brother to the 1993 Derclinched the match.

In the second round Sampras by favourite Tenby.

He is not a massive horse, but will meet the Australian Patrick bigger than his disappointing sibling, and all athlete. He came Rafter, who is making a comeback after an operation on his right wrist last October. into focus bent like a bow over Chang, the second seed, who his hit, and afterwards Pat Edis hoping for his third straight Hong Kong Open title, had a dery was visibly enthusiastic. Cecil, too, trotted away well

tough first set against Ondrus-ka. "I always have to play a lot of tough points against Marcos," Chang said. "I had to hreak his serve to stay in the first set but in the second set I started to play better." Sandon Stolle, of Australia

upset the fourth seed, Jakob Hlasek, and Jean Fleurian beat the seventh seed, Johan Van Herck, to reach the quarter-fi-nals of the Indian Open in New Delhi yesterday. The fifth seed, Jonas Bjork-

man of Sweden, and the sixth seed, Britain's Tim Henman, fell in the first round on Tuesday.

In the doubles, Sander Groen and Magnus Norman defeated the English pairing of Mark Petchey and Danny Saps-ford in a match that ended early when Petchey left the court with stomach problems. Groen and Norman had won the first set 6-2 and were trailing 0-1 in the second.

Third-seeded Magdalena Maleeva, of Bulgaria, suffered a surprise second-round exit at the hands of the unfancied Austrian Barbara Schett in the Bausch and Lomb Championships at Amelia Island, Florida, yesterday

Schett, ranked 58th in the world, beat the eighth-ranked Maleeva 6-1, 6-3 after a lightning start which saw her win the first five games.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football

PONTINS SERECT PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: Notinghem Forest VLeeds (7.0); Wokes v Tranmere (7.0) or Telford). Second Division: Bradford Cty v Sunderland (7.0). Postponed: Manchester

City v Gritisby, AVON INSURANCE COMBUNATION Second Stanty.

TOSS LEAGUE First Division: Bitericay v Bork-ing, Third Division: Axeley v Weakstons (7.45); Epsom & Evet v Timg (7.45), Caritoo Tro-phy semi-final replay: Hungarford v Carwey Island (7.45).

SIGHT (1-1-3).

SREAT MILLS LEAGUE Pression Division: Odd
DOWN v Mangotsfield.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Widenhall v Rarwell VINCETON V DAWEN,
JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Pyemier Division: Lowestoft v Watton (7.45); Woodbridge
V Harwich & Parkestore

Rugby Union CLUB MATCH: Lichfield v HM Prisons (7.0).

Speedway 7.30 unless stated

PREMIER LEAGUE: Inswich v Poole; London v Wolverhampton; Middlesbrough v Hull; Sheffield v Edinburgh (7.45).



The age of Seve Ballesteros when he became the yougster winner of the US Masters in 1980. The oldest Augusta champion was Jack Nicklaus, who was 46 when he captured the Green Jacket in 1986.



₩INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES REJULTS CHELTENHAM 972 FONTWELL HAMILTON 973 0891 261 970

Two owners banned from all tracks for 10 years usually carries a penalty of dis-

and Jim McDonald, were yesterday warned off for 10 years each by the Jockey Club for their involvement with Pretty Average, a winner last year at Thirsk, who was found to have

Two owners, Patricia Hamilton run in unlicensed races under the name of Short'n Sweet. The pair admitted that they

were in breach of the rules concerning misleading racecourse stewards and those covering involvement with

RIJNERED FIRST TIME: None.
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Sordet King (2.55) has been sent
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Sordet King (2.55) has been sent
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Sordet King (2.55)
sent 408 miles by S Dow from Epsons, Surrey.

2.20 CALDER APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 1m 65yds

222161 MAPLE BNY (P) (2) A Bailey 7 9 13 (Sec), Angula Ballisson 64-0000 TALENGED TRIS (S) (EII) P Hestern 7 9 10, Cent Devision 3 365-006 MASTER OFFICE HOUSE (D) (D) M Hermand 119 5 ...

Pretty Average was a wellhacked 20-1 winner of a selling handicap on 29 July last year for trainer Basil Richmond, who was cleared of any breach of the

rules prior to the inquiry.

qualification from ownership for 12 months. But the Jockey Club's director of public affairs David Pipe, said: "The stewards viewed this as an extremely se-

An involveni	ent with nappers Hous offence.
HAMILTON	4 042260- MISTER WESTSOUND (154) (CD) Miss L Permit 4.9.5 J Wester 1
	5 122000- NATURAL KEY (200) (D) D Haydr Jones 3 9 2 , A Madday
HYPERION	8 110050- DENGREN (184) (C) (D) Denys Smith 12 8 11
2.20 Hey Up Dolly 2.55 Dungeon Princess 3.30	7 CDS-DED PARTHER (S4) (CD) J Hetherton B 8 9
	8 00000-5 DIET (7) (CD) Mes L Perset 10 8 9 M Consortion
Panther 4.05 Irish Fiction 4.40 Eau De Cologne	9 CO21A-O LEADONG PRINCIPES (7) (CU) MARE L Perent 5 8 8_R Lappin
5.15 Cutthroat Kid (nb)	1D 2600-00 CRAKGE BOY (3) (CD) N Bycent 5 8 7P Robleson
372 CHICHAN WH (IM)	11 6-52111 MY GALLERY (Z/) A Baloy 5-8 8 Angula Gallimore (7)
GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places).	12 014100- SUEDORD (199) (CD) R McKear 8 8 8 Feecey (5)
STALLS: Stantis' side except Im Soyds & Imif (inside rail).	13 60400-0 SAMSING LOVELYLADY (7) E Weymes 4 8 4 Familing 1
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best for 1m to 1m 1L	14 000500- Mail-Mariet (170) (0) G Oldroya 8 8 2 F Egen
Right-hand undulating course with pear-shaped loop,	15 500600- ANDERER NICHTBRANE (164) (C) 7 Dyer 4 7 13 .R Mollon (7) 1
Course is N of town on B7071, Hamilton West station 1m, AD-	16 O/06506- RIMUS MANOR (208) E Alston 5 7 12 L Charmock 1
MISSION: Clob 512; Grandstand & Paddock 57 (\$4 for OAPs, dis-	17 DSO- CYMENIO (289) Miss L Perent 5 7 10
abled & students, £10 for couples); under-16s free, CAR PARK: Pree.	Minimum weight: Tot 10th. True handicap weight: Cymbalo Tst 28c.

15 SOCGO: ANDERSEN INSTRUMENTE (1859 (C) T Der 4 7 13 JR Mollon (7) 13.
16 ODESUG- REMUS MANOR (200) E Aston 5 7 12 ______ I. Charmock, 16
17 DBO: CYMENLO (200) Mass I. Perms 5 7 10 ______ D Whight (S) 10
- 17 declared
Minimum weight: Thi 10th. True handloop weight: Cymbolo 7st 20.
BETTRUE 9-2 My Gallery, 8-1 Utra Beet, 7-1 Carmock Valley, 8-1 Londing

Prince	iss, Dia	4, 10-1 Parther	, 12-1 Natural	Koy, Densben,	14-1 others
4	05	DUNWAN	MEDIAN	AUCTION E3,450 add	MAIDE
		STAKES (C	LASS F) 1	E3,450 add	ed 5f 2YC
1	2	THE STELL HERE	E (16) J Berry 9	0	Compil 4
2	22	HESH FICTION	(7) M Chennon	90	R Hoghes :
3					
4		EXPRESS GERI	.O Molfant 8 9	Derror	Motivatt (3)
			- 4 declared		

SETUDIC: 7-4 Irisk Fiction, 9-4 Pm Still Horse, Dur Return, 7-1 Per

-	.,	Andrews of a set of the second transfer of the second seco
[4.40	GLEN LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 1m 4f
1		ASTRAL WEEKS (5) 1 Lungs 5 9 1K Fallon 9
2	222301	CALDER KING (B) (C) J L Eye 591
3	612000	MENTALASANYTHIN (25) (CD) A Bailey 7 8 1 A Mincley 9
4	10400-0	KING CLERAN (21) (C) A Baloy 58 13
5	3566/00	TURGENEY (7) (0) 8 Bastoman 7 8 13
6		EAU DE COLOGNE (161) C Thomson 4 8 12 Dean McKeons 1
7		FRSSAN (185) M Harrimond 4 8 12 Carroll 7
8		HOUSE OF DREAMS (15) & Moore 4 8 12 Fortune 2
9		CARRIENDERA (48) E Aletto 4 R R S D Williams R

- 12 declared -	-9 declared -
Minimum weight: 7st 10th, True handlose weight: Regid Mover 7st.	BETTERR: 11-4 Caider King, 5-1 Autral Weeks, 11-2 Eas De Cologne, 8-
PETTING: 3-1 Maple Bay, 7-2 Rentho Watters, 6-1 Talented Ting, 6-1 Man-	1 Passan, 13-2 Mantalassaythin, 10-1 House Of Drosms, 12-1 others
ter Ofthe House, 10-1 Europetice Life, Smake Pliesters, 12-1 others	
	5.15 JOSEPH BODWICK 80TH BERTHDAY HAND- ICAP (CLASS E) £4,800 added 1m 5f
2.55 SPRINGFELD RATING RELATED MAIDEN	ICAP (CLASS E) £4,800 added 1m 5f
	1 02550-5 CUTTHROAT KID (8) (CD) Mrs M Revoley 8 9 12 K Dealey 7
1 403050- BOUNDARY BIRD (LAS) M JOSTISSON 9 D J Westyer 3	2 021645 LDRD HASTIE (12) C Thomas 889 O Pears (3) 8
2 50204-5 DOMPNO FLYER (45) Mrs A Swinbank 9 0 Flurtuste 1	3 0000-05 SARAWAT (15) (BIF) 0 Michalls 8 9 9Alm: Granes 2
3 204-0 FOREST BOY (29) K Movate 90 F Egus 2	4 303000- REEN TO THE LAST (1995) M Hammond 4 9 8X Fillion 1
4 06080-4 GET TOUGH (17) S Dow 9 0	5 4006 FRNAONYR (217) W Storey 4 9 3
5 CO-0 MESTER WOODSTICK (17) M Javis 80	7 61-6110 PREMER DANCE (21) 0 Hoydh Jones 9 8 17 A Madday 8
9 0540-53 RATITLE (S) J J O'Nell 9 0 5 0 Williams 7 360- SOWET KING (275) P Michell 9 0 6 Housen (7) 8	8 5315/00- RECLUSE (222) Mics L Perret 5 8 11 J Carrol 11
8 50-024 DUNGEON PRINCESS (7) M Cherron 8 11R Hughes 4	9 D4-D042 ME CHEROKEE (5) C Thomash 4 88 Dean McKeene 8
-9 declared -	10 410/60-1 EUROTWEST (6) (C) 5 Kesslewel 7 8 8 (4ex) J Portune 15
SETTING: 9-4 Dangson Princess, 7-2 Get Tough, 5-1 Mister Woodstick,	11 6430/63 PALACE OF GOLD (5) Liungo 6.8 1
Ruttie, 8-1 Boundary Kird, 8-1 Soviet King, 10-1 others	12 015320- WATAGE TAITTINGER (292) T Dyer 4 T 13 _R Mollen (7) 13
	13 3100-06 LORD ADVOCATE (7) (CD) 0 Notes 8 7 11N Verlay (3) 9
3.30 DAVE COOPER MEMORIAL HANDICAP	14 08-3205 PHILLIEST (b) W Essy 4 7 11
(CLASS D) £5,500 added 6f	- 15 decired -
1 F22200 LETDA DEST MOR MORE D. Mardon A 10.0 L Continue 12	Effective workshop Test 2 Offs. Your handless workshop Entered to Market Test City.

FORM GUIDE VICING FLAGSHIP, back to his britient best at Aintree, earl be backed with confidence to see off his two rivals. Traviado and Salea Cavatiller. The faster ground would always give Traviado a flighting chance of turning over his old rival and he was only six lengths adrift of the David Nicholson numer at the Chetrenham Festival. But he's still set a lough task to day against a home who revealed for the return to this sort of thip at Aintree — Vising Flagship winning that race a formight ago for the second year numing. The novice Gales Cavatiller returned from a rest to best Super Tactics at Exeter three weeks ago but is hard to fancy in white leaves. GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places). Left-band, galloping course with stiff (ences, Uphill run-in of 240yd, Course is 1m N of town off A435. Bus just from Chekenham raiway station (served by Bristol, Birmingham and London, Paddington) 2m away. ADMISSION: Chib & Tattersolls combined \$12 (juniors, 16-24 years, \$8); Foster's Enciosure \$5. CAR PARK. Free. EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE PINAL (CLASS A) (Grade 3) £25,000 added 2m 4f Panalty Value £18,110 ■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH EDINNERS: D Niebolson — 38 winners from 190 runners gives a success ratio of 18,9% and a loss to a \$1 level stake of \$13,58; M Pipe — 38 winners, 286 runners, 21,3%, −638,19; N Twistons Davises — 32 winners, 220 runners, 14,5%, −£1,447; K Bailley — 23 winners, 96 runners, 24,5%, −£7,60. ■ LEADING JOCKETS: R Dranwoody — 44 winners, 227 rides, 19,4%, +\$12,33; A Magniro — 26 winners, 182 rides, 14,3%, −52,84; J Owberne — 24 winners, 173 rides, 13,9%, −564,81; N Williamson — 21 winners, 97 rides, 24,1%, +\$33,53. WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Uncle Keepy (3,40) has been sent 230 miles by J J O'Neill from Sichon Wood End, Cumbris; Rhoseilli Bay (1,55) sent 223 miles by Min M Reveley from Lingdale, Cleveland.

4f Pennsity Value £16,110

1 13262 STROMS PROMISE (12) (6 Hobord) G Habbord 5 12 0 Kande (9)
2 13233 UNICLE INSMIT (1A) (30) (8 Hobord) G Habbord 5 12 0 Kande (9)
3 04-0611 TARA RAMERER (26) (30) U Hohordy May 5 Hal 7 10 4 PC Carbarry
4 54210 HODDED HAWK (13) (3) (2 M Harney H Handscon 5 10 3 M A Hoppenid
5 6214 AMBIESTE (23) (3) (6 M Hot May 5 Williams 5 10 1 R. Danisondy
8 6327 F1296 GUINNER (20) (9 Manyon Green) O Nicholan 5 10 0 M Mariston
7 13:1821 Many'S CROSS (18) (5) (9) (Leide Gunalt Racing) G Balaing 5 10 0 M P Mariston
8 1-2:1550 EXCEPTIOR FROMES (27) (97) (W Transon) 15;00 T 10 0 States
9 21:2014 CAD HARRIS (22) (9) (W Transon) 15;00 T 10 0 States
9 21:2014 CAD HARRIS (22) (9) (W Transon) 15;00 T 10 0 States
10 0-6311P MSS GPTHAST (18) (9) (8F) (The Pough Perturschip) O Nicholan 9 10 0 LR Johnson (2)
-10 factorial Mariston weight: 10st. Two hasoland weights: Ameny's Cross Set 120, Exterior Proffes Set 116, Oct Habits
9st 10th, MSS Optimist Set 10to.
18571WS 11-4 Strong Provision, 9-2 Fare Ramables, 6-1 Jarony's Cross, 13-2 Uncle Kenny, 7-1 Amilians
1867.

1995: Bear One 8 11 8 J Osborre 3-1 (0 Sherscoot) 25 ists
FORM GUIDE

Strong Promise is open to attack have under 12st ofter his credwing effort against Unubende at Ambree, and TARA RAMBUER could be the snip at the weights off 10st 4fb. Paut Carberry is noting britisarily at present and has been on Tara Rambier for while at Market Resen and Doncaster. The lasted will from Seef Mose under a 10th penalty was a decert priori, and, with Jet Boys seven langths back in fourth, he has every chance today of beating Exterior Profiles, who recent allevels when beeting Jet Boys 10 lengths at Kampton in November. Hooded Hawkt booked good at Falenchum but timeshed tailed off at Ammer in Silver Silved's race. The fast ground is a worly for Ambleside, who has been sined for this race since a Crestion with under Biotherd Durwoody from Corabetts in February. Under Resmy is exposed after his America third to Top Spin and this faster ground may count against him, but Jisseny's Gross as a first his hose who loves test ground. Selections: UAPA RAMBUER

4.15 TIMEFORM GOLDEN MILLER HANDICAP CHASE CLASS C) £7,000 added 3m 2f 110yds Peneity Value £4,856

and, apert from a course win from Doc's Dilemma in September, Polden Pride also enjoys a 10h pull with Certails Angle, who he would probably have bestern at Exeter in October but for a last-fence still. Woodhord Gale is a rare Nicky Henderson nurvier in a hardisap on this chesting debut and he would not be without a chance on his Newbury third to Tennessee Trest and Yahmi in November. Mr President has always worked tike a good horse and his troubles are behind him judged on recent wins at Doncaster and Newbury. It was 50 easy for him at Newbury off 10st 3th, but the opposition was weak and he's now on a faster surface off a 14th higher rating. Certain Angle had a few juriting incoups earlier in the soaron but gained wins at Exeter and Teunton, Richard Durwoody has been booked and this is Certain Angle's ground so a goof run is expected. Pive To Seven run well against Rocket Run at Aintree, while Rhoesth Bay faces a Sterner test after beating General Command when groung tots of weight at Doncaster. _R Johason [3]

1996: Hill Tim 9 11 0 A Tory 5-1 (it Bishoul 9 ian PTOM GUIDE.)
Had the ground been fast, Charlie Marm would have given GENERAL TAXSTY his chance in the Gold Cup. The PRz Chub Handicap was also bytassed, but this looks a desert conscision prize with General Rusty being nicoly primed for the etternpt effect his Uttouter run behand Even Blave – that ground stift being too slow for him. So impressive in the Chairma Chase at Kempton back in October, General Rusty can show these the way home despite the sassable weight. Cool Dawn's fine effort in the high National on Monday is a clue to felthe handle weight. Cool Dawn's fine effort in the high National on Monday is a clue to felthe handle weight. Cool Dawn's fine effort in the high National cold to weights and McCritisteraid is booked to get him jumping, which has been suspect with fails at Kempton and Ascot either side of a poor jumping deplay at the Festival. Barelend has had this race as the target all season and the ground is night for him. He goes well fresh so the leyoff shouldn't be a problem and Tony McCoy is just the men to get him jumping. Sig See Dus had leg trouble when with John Upson so it was full make to Chaire Brooks to get him reedy for a Folkestions will four heeks ago after such a layoff. This is a stronger race. Folkestone win four weeks ago after such a layoff. This is a stronger race. Selection: GENERAL RUSTY

2m 4f Pernaity Value £5,069

1 024-304 BORD EIGHT (12) (Berson, Murphy and Alan) Miss V Williams 10 11 12 R Johnson 2 0-4712P MOLE BOARD (28) (CD) (W E Sturt) J Cit 14 11 12 M A FRagmand 3 0450U MOPS AND POPS (3) (b) The Hoopy Bard) R Ainer 9 11 3 A P MisCay 4 1527-02 BRADBURY STAR (131) (CD) (Jennes Campbel) / Griford 11 11 0 P Hide — 4 declared — BETTRIE: 6-4 Male Board, 7-4 Boro Eight, 5-1 Hops And Pops, 11-2 Bradbury Star. 1399-5: Allegation 5 11 8 R Durwoody 7-2 (M Pipe) 8 ran FORM GLIPDE

Josh Gefford: as back emongst the winners after a lean spell and he has made a shread move in pitting BRADBURY STAR in this hundle race. Bradbury Star is never better than when recong on this track and could well surprise the eged hundlers on his favoured surface. Bradbury Star would be gang, Hops And Pops stones over fences yet gets 35 to tody. This return to a conditions race hundle will aid Hops And Pops and fast ground didn't stop her from theating Great Marquess at Newbury in November. Boro Eight has never won on ground as fast as this, though he went close in the Airtree hundle usat season against Danoll when with Paddy Mullims. Beatten nine lengths into fourth by Unubande in the Airtree race 12 days with Paddy Mullims. Beatten nine lengths into fourth by Unubande in the Airtree race 12 days with Paddy Mullims. Beatten nine lengths into fourth by Unubande in the Airtree race 12 days with Paddy Mullims. Beatten nine lengths into fourth by Unubande in the Airtree race 12 days with Paddy Mullims. Beatten nine lengths into fourth by Unubande in the Airtree race 12 days of the eight has never be the minute and then pulled up iams in the Stayers' Hundle at Chettenhern, Mole Board has every chance of coming good today at his best.

Selection: BRADBURY STAR 4.50 STOKE ORCHARD AVENUE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £7,500 added 4YO 2m 4f Penalty Value £5,199

FONTWELL. HYPERION

2.10 The Black Monk 2.45 Herbert Buchanan 3.20 Sophie May 3.55 Winnie Lorraine 4.30 Warfield Lad 5.05 General Jackie

GOING: Good to Pirm (Firm in places).

Eleft-hand hurdle course; figure-of-eight chase course

Elect-hand hurdle course; figure-of-eight chase course

Electron is 6 of village at junction of A29 and A27. Burnham station (Beighton - Portamenth line) 2m. ADMISSION: Club 512;

Junior Club (12 to 15-year-olds) 52, under 12s free; Tattersalls

18 (accompanied under-16s free); Siver Ring 54. CAR PARK:
Pieric ares 54 plus 54 for each occupant; remainder free.

SIS

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Coochie (2.10) & Seven (3.20) have
been sent 170 miles by R Baker from Scoolieigh, Devon; Stammer Bewen
(2.10) sent 169 miles by N Lampard from Kingshridge, Devon.

2.10 MIDLAND OLYMPIC APPEAL SELLING HAND-ICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,450 2m 6f

Minimum weight: 10st. True hardisep weights: Coochie 9st 11th, Roger's Pol 9st 10th, Hass Pimpernel Sal 8th, Kentavnis Way 9st 5th, Summer Haven 9st

30; Father's Joy & Ludy Poly St. 20; Michien Flower St. BETTRIG: T-2 Quiet Dame, 4-1. The Stack Monte, 9-2 Prisce Nacha, 6-1 Rentaurus Way, 8-1 Lady Poly, 10-1 Coochie, 14-1 others 2.45 GRIFFIN FACTORS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 3f

DECERGE EMERALD MOON OF PRostord 9 11 2

3.20 GALLAGHER GROUP HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 2f 1 03-5-12 AMAZE (15) (85) Lady Hernes 7 12 0 Ethophy BETTRAC 6-1 Frozen See, 11-2 Shy Paddy, 6-1 Sigma Ren, 7-1 Restore 2 233-FR GREEN (SJAND (10) (D) ADLYN 10 11 12 Mr Richard Walte (7) Garden, 8-1 Lacra Lye, 10-1 Equinox, Macmanara, 12-1 others

radarinalis de la maria de la completa del la completa de la completa del la completa de la completa del la completa de la completa del la completa della del la completa della della della completa della

8 234070 McMANS MILLER (45) 8 Rove 8 10 5 D 0*2 Milliam 9 11611-5 NOWSHIN HOUSE (50) 1200 (87) 8 Calley 8 10 4 L. R Rentoz (3) 10 3307537 JOLI'S GREAT (736) (0) M Ryan 8 10 0 J. Ryan 11 5PP- COLERIDGE (384) J Sheshan 8 10 0 S 060331 D 11 12 053354 WEDRAY GAME (450) Mr L Level 11 10 0 J. D Leshy 13 2000 FP- RETHYS GAMBLE (449) (0) Mr L Jevel 8 10 0 J 8 Kreunegh

- 13 declared - Minimum: 10st. Coleridge 9st 13b, Victory Gate 9st 12b, Ruth's Garable 9st 10b. BETTRIC 3-1 Amere. 9-2 Sophie May, 6-1 Mayasha House, Soven, 8-1 Keel Row. 10-1 Footbroker Star. 12-1 others.

3	3.55	STEVE DUDMAN PLANT HANDIC CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 3m 2f 110)
1	225P-26	HARRISTOWN LADY (42) Miss V Williams 9 12 0 . A Thorn
2		ST ATHANS LAD (477) (C) R Curts 11 11 12 0 Mg
3		DONNA DEL LAGO (292) (D BR G VoCourt 1D 11 12 .B CE
4		DOONLOUGHAN (237) (CD BF) 0 Baiding 11 11 10
5	15-2294	DESERT MIN (126) (D) P Nichols 8 11.8 Mr J Collots
8		WONNE LORRANCE (5) (CD) 8 Afrec 11 11 4 Mr P Hossian
7		CYTHERE (26) (CD) Gried 12 11 2 L Aspe
8		EARLY MAN (374) (CD) O Grassel 8 1D 13 B Femin
9		THE REAL UNITOKE (5) 8 Roses 11 10 11
10		RAGLAN ROAD (18) Miss A Embrecos 12 10 5J
īī	005PP5	MASTER COMEDY (17) (CD) Mas L Bover 12 10 0 L He
		Winnie Lorosine, 4-1 Doosloughau, 5-1 Desert Ron, 5- i-1 Cythere, Harristown Lady, Ragian Road, 10-1 other

4.30 HOMELEIGH TIMBER SUPPLIES NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 3m 2f 110yds

- 8 declared -BETIENG: 15-8 Warfield Lad, 11-4 Jojo, 9-2 Right's Lane, 6-1 Prototio

Dan	icer, 10-1	Ballyacherd, 14-1 Surgical Spirit, 20-1 other	5
E	.05	ARGYLL INSURANCE BAINTON MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,6	1 SMN 50 2m
1		EQUENCIX (13) Mrs M Jones 5 11 6	
2	OPPU	FRST CLASS (17) G Attord 5 11 8	R Grove
3	380	FROZEN SEA (14) G Sweet 5 11 6	R Keesen
4		GENERAL JACKSE (9) J Grifford 5 11 5	
5		HRLSWACK (16) J King 5 11 6	
6	005	MACHANARA (17) S Woodman 6 11 8	B Fertice
7		MILLIFRONE B Rove 6 11 6	
8	B3 50F5	STERRA FRUM (10) J Edwards 7 11 6	b B Potts
9		SOUTHWEY MIS I Jewell 5 11 6	
10	002	LAURA LYE (1/0) 8 De Haan 5 11 1	
11		CASSIFLOW CRISIS (45) J Nutire 4 11 0	
12	056	KRATON GARDEN (19) 7 Casey 4 11 0	E Mean
13	543	SHY PADDY (15) K Currengram-Brown 4 110	D Walsh
14		ZUNO FLYER (5) A LIGOT 4 11 0	
15		SILVER BERD (17) M Ryan 4 10 9	
16	O	VANOLA (180) C / Berstead 4 10 9	D No
_	_	- 16 declared -	

EXETER

#ETTERS: 2-5 Vising Pageship, 12-4 Traverso, 7-1 Galos Creation 1996: no corresponding race

EXETER

2.20: 1 LESSONS LASS (Mr.) Culoty) 94: 2. Pleasant Surprise 13-8 fay, 3. Swiv4: 2. Pleasant Surprise 13-8 fay, 3. Swiv4: 7-4 4 ran. 7. 1. (Miss H Kneptn). Total
53-50. Dual Forecast: £3.00. Computer
Straigh Forecast: £3.00. Computer
Straigh Forecast: £3.00. Computer
Straigh Forecast: £3.00. Computer
2.50: 1. MY MARN MAN (A P McCo/) 51: 2. Master Ryon 14-1; 3. Bazz O'The
Crowd 50-1: 9 ran. 4-8 far Sounds Straig
2. 18. 0ks 5 Messer Bennetis, Forec £4.00.
£1.10. £2.60, £6.30. DF: £43.00. CSF:
£1.10. £2.60, £6.30. DF: £43.00. CSF:
£3.20: 1. gROUND NUT (B Powen 7-2 jt.
18: 2. Routy Road 8-1; 3. Sabeld Rhver 201.8 ran. 7-2 jt fav Keep Me in Mind. 3. 28.
(R Buckler). Total: £3.60; £1.40, £2.50,
£3.10. DF: £22.50. CSF: £26.18. Tocast:
£259.20.

2359.20.

2.50: 1. GENERAL SALLITE (A P McCoy)
16-1: 2. Hundy Westing 4-1; 3. Stone Brainble 25-1. 15 rea. 4-6 few Best of Friends (unseemed note), 1, 18. (G Belong). Yehr: 118-50;
63.70. £1-40, £7-10, DF: £25-30. CSF:
£75-03. Thor: £334-90. After a stewards in\$\text{Lipus}\$, the 2nd horse Sanda Point was disqualified and pleed last.
4.20: 1. CONTI D'ESTRUVAL (A P McCoy)
10-13 fer; 2. Whee Asserbach 11-1; 3. Ser-

4.20: 1. CONTO D'ESTRUVAL (A P. McCO)
10-11 far; 2. Wise Approach 11-1; 3. Seveen of Dismonds 11-2; a sev. 4, 3%, 16 Bainlig. Tote: £1:90; £1:10, £2:00; £1:90. DF:
£12:40, CSF: £12:07, Tricast: £38.70.
4.50; 1. SMEEP STEALER (One Webb) 114 far; 2. Polity Leach 5-1; 3. Chris's Glen
6-1, 8 ma. 11; 6. (R Pescock), Tote: £2:80;
£1:10, £2:90, £2:40, DF: £12:00, CSF:

£17.22. Tricast: £72.77. Tric: £12.80. Piacepot: £481.60. Quedpot: £23.00. Piace 6: £446.99. Piace 5: £116.42.

RIPON 2.10: 1. PROUD NATIVE (/ Tata) 8-1; 2. Double Park 3-1; 3. The Gay Fox 10-1, 2 rats, 13-8 fav Prace of Parkes, 14:, 14:, (A larve), Totas £16.90; £4.00, £1.50, £1.90. DF: £32.30, CSF: £32.32, 2.40: 1. COMPTEU'S LEGEND (I. Charnock) 7-1; 2. Watch Me Go 8-1; 3. Dots Dee 20-1, 18 rats, rk, six-hd. (/ Bottomley), Totas

RICHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: Herbert Buchanan (Fontwell 2.45) NB: Fassan (Hamilton 4.40)

£10.00; £2.60, £2.10, £4.60, £1.80, DP; £37.10, CSP; £66.84, Thoset; £1.037.84, 3.10; 1 SUPER BENZ (R Larpin) 6-1 jt for; 2. To The Roof 6-1 jt for; 3. Highborn 25-1, 24 ran. 3, ¼, (J L Eyre), Toker £7.20; £2.10, £2.10, £5.40, £3.30, DP; £22.10, CSP; £44.71, Tribest; £84.33, Toker £776.60, 3.40; 1. SANTILLANA (G-Hrd) 4-6 for; 2. Double Diamond 9-1; 3. Coyota Saff 20-1, 4 ran. nk, 7. (J Gosden), Tota: £1.60. DF; £2.90, CSF: £5.72.

RACING RESULTS 4.10: 1. PSP'S DREAM (W Carson) 13-8 fay: 2. Outstayed Welcome 6-1; 3. Keep Battling 10-1. 11 ran. 1, 1. (M Rien). Tota: 52.60; 51.60, 51.70; 51.60, DF: 55.30, CSF: £11.51, Treast £69.15, Tre: £18.10, NR:

EDIES INC. 120-110. INC. 2.10-110. I 5.10: 1 MERTADI (W Cerson) 3-1 te/; 2. Nose No Bounds 9-2; 3. Phantom Haze 6-1. 15 ran. shi-hi, 2½. (1 Durlop). Yoka £2.40; £1.80, £2.00, £1.80. DF: £5.50, CSP. £18.55, Tricast. £78.64, Tair. £11.80.

lackpot: £27,878.50 (part won, pool of £35,731.69 to Hamilton today). Placepot: 522.40. Quadrot: £6.40, Place 6: £41.84. Place 5: £10.67, WORCESTER .

2.00: 1.00: RANHING (Lines) 4-1 fat, 2. Boltrose 20-1: 3. Stately Home 6-1, 23 rate: 2, 6. (M. Poe). Total: £3.70; £1.40, £4.00, £2.60. DP: £190.30. CSP. £78.07. 2.30: 1. YOUNG PERSON SINCE (C. Sandoy) 7-2; 2. Joshua & Vision 50-1; 3. Drziestone 33-1. 20 mm, 3-1 fm The Capter's Wash (4th). 12, nk. (C Brooks). Total: £4.50; £1.50, 57.60, £6.10. OP: £103.70. CSP: £150.48. ARC Flippance. After a steasofts' inquity, the 3rd horse The Captain's Kilah sees placed 4th, and the 4th horse Dishessone was placed 3rd. 2.00: 1. SUPER BOSSP (M A Forgerald) 4-1 g fay; 2. Facebridge 5-1; 3. Sound Fore-cast 20-1.12 ren. 4-1 g fay SuNS Bay; 2, 3. (P. Hedger, Tobe: 53.70; £1.40, £1.80, £4.50.0F; £7.50.0SF; £27.55.17cr £1.21.50. 2.3.0. UT 17:50. UST 127:50. THE 17:13.0.
3.30: 1 ULURU U B KARRENSH) 8-1; 2.
Royal Piper 14-1; 3. Special Account 141. 15 ran. 11-4 tay Keep R Zipped (Sch), 1,
10. (C Nash), Totae 17:80; 12:40, 15:80,
13:20. DF: 556:50. CSF: £114.47. Thoss:
£1,455:52. The: £218.10,
4.00: 1. SOCIETY GLEST (Mr J Ress) 9thr. 2. SOCIETY GLEST (Mr J Ress) 9thr. 2. SOCIETY GLEST (Mr J Ress) 9thr. 2. SOCIETY GLEST (Mr J Ress) 9-

4.00: 1. SOCIETY GJEST (Mr J Ress) 94 fev; 2. Zemirah 6-1; 3. Emerald Roles 81.12 tan. 1½, 1½, (Nurrel). Tota: 23.30;
£1.90, £2.10, £2.00. DF: £5.10. CSF:
£14.65, Treast: £80.75, Tno: £50.50.
4.30: 1. ZAMBEZI SPIRTI (D Byrne) 1.41; 2. The Mine Captain 11-2; 3. Oscall An
Doras 8-1, 18 tan. 3%, 5. (Mr M Jones).
Tota: £12.00; £3.10, £2.10, £2.50, £1.50.
DF: £51.80, CSF: £50.75, Treast: £834.50. DF: £51.80. CSP: £90.75. Theast: £634.60. ner 5211 1D. 5.00: 1. DAWN LEADER (J.A. McCarony) 5-1; 2. A-El-Cee 12-1; 3. Colonel Blazer 9-2. 21 ran. 4-1 fav Le Baron. 4, 174, (O

9-2, 21 ran, 4-1 fev Le Baron, 4, 174, (0 Sherwood), Toter £5.50; £3.20, £4.50, £2.10. DF: £69.00. CSF: £64.44. Ther £95.60. NR: Cating the Tune.

- 5.30: 1. LITERINA CONDUCTOR (M. A. Fraguado 9-4 fev; 2. Come On Pentry 16-1; 3. Carry The Care 11-1, 22 ran, 5, 2, (N Herterson). Totar £3.30; £2.00, £3.40, £2.90. OF: £37.70. CSF: £42.45. Ther £267.60. Planement \$508.10. Opening £26.10. Placepet: £808.10. Quadpot: £26.10. Place 6: £446.03. Place 5: £233.50.

sport

60TH US MASTERS: Ryder Cup partners contemplate tough draw. Tim Glover assesses the challenge of Europe's finest in Augusta.

Faldo must face menace of the 'Wild Thing'

ad he been fit and well Jose-Maria Olazabal would have been a natural front runner in the betting for the Masters, but in his absence the burden of Europe's expectation falls on to the shoulders of the Ryder Cup partners, Colin Montgomerie and Nick Faldo. The draw, however, has not been kind to either of them.

Faldo, the champion in 1989 and 1990, goes out in the first round today shortly after high noon and it is less the timing that is disadvantageous than the man he is paired with: John Daly. On hearing the draw, it is fair to surmise that Faldo would have held his head in his hands and said something along the lines of: "You cannot be serious." The exiled Englishman would probably have preferred to have been drawn with Jerry Courville Jnr at around midnight.

There are two obvious drawbacks to being paired with the former "Wild Thing". One is that the outlandish Daly attracts huge galleries (there'll be plenty of noise and much whooping and a bollering and the other is that off the tee the American will be considerably longer than Faldo. Off the course the two personalities are also miles apart.

The experience is more likely to deflect Faldo than Daly. Faldo has a considerable edge in terms of experience in negotiating Augusta National, but the 29-year-old Daly is younger. strooger and has the game, if not, perhaps, the temperament, to master the course.

Daly is worth a bet. When he won the US PGA Championship at Crooked Stick, Indiana, in 1991 the achievement was considered by most tu be a flash in the pan. He was ninth reserve for the tournament, got in at the last minute and proceeded to win it with prodigious driving and equally impressive putting. Thereafter his private life began to unravel like a cheap cardigan: alcoholic, wife-beater, road rage, hrushes with the law etc. About the only thing not connected with

Daly was mad cow disease. Following a suspension by the US Tour, he gave up drinking and switched instead to smoking. gamhling and eating junk food. The suspicion that his performance at Crooked Stick was some sort of accident, a one-off, was dispelled at St Andrews last summer when he won the Open Championship, taming the Old Course in gale force winds in the final round. Many purists did not think it possible for Daly to win the Open, an achievement at St Andrews that was beyood Har-

between them won 11 Opens. Daly's record on the US Tour

this year has been mediocre. He has not finished higher than 17th in seven starts although he had a tilt at two European Tour events, finishing joint 18th in the Johnnie Walker Classic and joint fifth in the Heineken Class More pertinently, though, is his record in the Masters. In four appearances (he was joint third three years ago) he has a stroke average of 72.88 and there is con-siderable room for improvement.

Today's tee-off times

45 men BST, US unless streed, "denotes enterior 1245 G Saratzen, B Nelson, S Snead Indonorary startars.)
1300 C Cooth, marker 1309 G Brewer, II Ford 1318 I Aaron, B Casper 1227 B Tway, J Trybs 1336 P Adriger, II Galford (GB) 1345 N Lancaster, K Triplett, 1354 B Bryen, E Dougherty 1403 S Ballesterus (Sp), J Maggert 1412 T Wite, D A Westinns. 1402 S Ballesteros (Spl.) J Magger 1412 T Vite, D A Westung 1421 P Jacobsen, F Nobels (RZ) 1430 J Sturren, 2 Fason 1439 M McCamber, T Herron 1448 L Jenzen; N Price (Zlm.) 1457 B Henninger, S McCarron 1506 A Painer, 18 Manuel 1515 S Lowery, M Roe (GB) 1515 S Lowery, M Roe (GB) 1524 I Beker-Finetr (Aus), H Suttor 1533 P McKelson, S Torance (GB 1542 Ti Waldorf, S Stricker 1561 S Hoch, P Sterikowske 1600 R Floyd, D Froet (SA) 1809 J Gelfagher Int, B Maylari 1618 G Player (SA), "C Wolfman 1627 W Austin, M Brooks 1636 B Glesson, 2 Estes 1636 B Glesson, 2 Estes 1636 B Littes, C Rocus (II) 1845 I. Mizs, C Roces (t)
1864 S (yle (GSI), K Perry
1703 M Csicavechta, J Huston
1712 F Furth, P Goydos
17721 T Wasson, S Ellengton (Aus)
1738 N Faide (GBI, J Daly
1748 8 Langer (GeI, J Daly
1748 8 Langer (GeI, J Daly
1748 8 Langer (GeI, J Daly
1748 8 Langer (GeI), J Courvile Int
1757 J Nicklaus, M Campbell (NC)
1806 J Hasis, T Lehrman
1815 C Strange, S Sampson
1824 D Lave BJ, C Montgomen (GBI)
1833 F Couples, "G Sherry (GBI)
1842 C Pavin, V Singh (Figi)
1842 C Pavin, V Singh (Figi)
1851 P Stewert, M O'Meetra
1900 F Zoeller, G Norman (Aus)
1909 I Woosnam (GBI, A Cejka (GeI)
1918 C Stranger, E DS (SA)
1927 H trein, M Qaals (Jopan)

In theory Augusta National and the Green Jacket seem taifor made for Daly. Should be win the Masters it would give him the third leg of the four major championships and it would be a fair Open, the US Golf Association would make the fairways as narrow as a shociace and the rough

1927 H Irwin, M Ozaki (Lapan) 1938 / Leonard, D Duvel 1945 I. Roberts, S Higashi (Japan) 1954 D Edwards, J Furjik

as high as an clephant's eye. Montgomerie, who is paired with Davis Love III, does not have an impressive tecord at Augusta National (joint 37th, joint 52nd, missed cut, joint 17th) hut his general improvement year by year has taken him to second place in the Sony world rankings with only Greg Norman ahead of him. Norman

is one of only seven players to occupy the No 1 spot since the rankings were introduced in 1986. The others are Faldo, Seve Ballesteros, Ian Woosnam, Nick Price, Fred Couples and Bern-hard Langer but Norman, the greatest money-winner in the game, is the only player never to have been out of the top 10.

Montgomerie has not won a major although he has gone agonisingly close, and Norman has just two to his name although it could be considerably more. On several occasions he has had one hand on the Green Jacket and his wardrobe remains incomplete without one. Monty is fancied on the basis of a flying start to the year with a victory in the Desert Classic in Dubai and second place to Couples in the TPC at Sawgrass. "I'm playing the best golf I've ever played," Monty said yesterday. Norman, who has missed his last two half-way cuts, will appreciate the fact that others are carrying the handicap of favouritism. As always, the outcome will be decided on the super-fast greens. "One of the things that has bothered me in the past has been my putting," Mont-gomerie said, "but I'm comfortable with it now. There are times when you've got to be very brave. The winner is the man who holes out particularly well and that's what I've got to do, I know that. It's quite a simple objective."

Scotland are well represented in Georgia for in addition to Montgomerie they have Sam Torrance, the runner-up to Monty in the Volvo Order of Merit last season, and Gordon Sherry, the amateur champion. Like Monty, Sherry, who is coached by Sam's father Bob, has been on a diet and has evaporated from 20st to 17st. Sherry is sporting a cap here which bears the initials KFC. Why, he was asked, are you representing Kentucky Fried Chicken? Sherry almost hit the roof of the clubhouse. "It was given to me," he pointed out firmly, "by Kilmarnock Football Clnb."

That is a marginal improvewhich hears the inscription: in contention on Sunday the television broadcasters will have to employ a censor. Torrance plays with the left-handed Phil Mickelson, referred to affectionately by the Scotsman as "Leftie", just as the New Zealander Michael Campbell is described as "Soupie", and Sherry is partnered with another of the American favourites, Couples. As for Sherry's cap, it is possible to read, for Football Club or Fried Chicken, one Fred Couples.



Colin Montgomerie, practising at Augusta National yesterday, says he is 'as confident as I have ever been'

recon

7.5

i bolical

Monty takes pitch and putt course

Colin Montgomerie has not always scored well at Augusta National, but he has always eateo well. The oew diet has put an end to that. "It's a shame. I used to have some lovely junior club sandwiches at this golf club but I'm not allowed them

Now I am eating a very light breakfast, then I have a salad and a oon-fat dinner. I cut out anything that cootains the word fried or fat. I have been in the States for three weeks and it is more difficult over here. The and hit the ball a bit harder, othfood here is more full of fat than erwise the ball won't hold its line ment oo Sam's hall marker at home. You have got to be dis- and go in the hole. There are ciplined and I have been since I have been here.

The European No 1 is now 40lbs lighter than at the beginning of the year. Now he is on the greens in the restaurant, he is seeking the same discipline on those out oo the course. Firm, fast and severely sloping, they are far less palatable. "I would not like them any quicker or the undulations any steeper," Montgomerie said. "They are on the limit of being playable."

on the limit of being playable."

Montgomerie's performance on the greens has been the root finished second in the US Play-

Born: St Louis

Turned professional in 1976. A man called Hass seems destined to win the Masters. 80b

alby, a former Maste

Goalby, a former Master champion, is his uncle and the man responsible for introducing Haas to golf. Goalby had a clob that was broken in half. He put a grip on it and gave it to Haas who firsted third in the first tournament he ever entered – the national Pee Wee championatin

Wee championship.
Played for the US in the
1975 Walker Cup and
the Ryder Cup in 1983
and again last year. Haes
has nine victories on the

US four and has played in the Masters on 15 oc-casions. Finished joint

third last year, has ap-peared in the top five on

Age: 42

The world No 2 is honing his short game for the long march towards his first major. Andy Farrell reports from Augusta

vious US Masters. Last year, when he recorded his best finish of tied 17th, the Scot broke 70 for the first time. The second of his two 69s still contained

four putts at the 14th. "The one thing that has bothered me in the past here is the putting. There are occasions when you just have to be hrave putts that need to be hit positively. You can't worry about the one coming back. If you do, you have already missed the first

Knowing that the greens will only get harder and faster by the weekend. Montgomeric has played just 27 holes in prac-tice before today's first round, instead concentrating on chipping and putting. That aspect of his game has already been

FOUR WITH POTENTIAL TO BE A MASTER

Gordon Sherry

Age: 22

Born: Kilmamock

is playing in his first Mas-ters and will turn profes-sional as the ink dries on his first contract next

his first contract next Monday. Sherry, at 6ft Sin and a silmmed down 17st, is probably the largest player ever to have appeared in the Masters. A student of biochemistry at Stifling University, he had the time of his fife last year, winning the Ameteur Championship at Hoytake, finishing fourth in the Scottish Open at St. Carroustle and joint 40th in the Open at St. Andrews, is germy wiser

Andrews, is getting wises by the minute. At a party

here on Montay evening he was approached by a woman who saked him." Is everything about you in proportion to your size?" "No," Sherry replied,

Having risen to No 2 in the world, behind Greg Norman, a major is Montgomenie's obvious priority. Golfers tend to subscribe to the view that the dues have to be paid first. Mooty has

paid out a pretty mint: third in the '92 US Open, and lost play-offs for the '94 US Open and last year's USPGA at Riviera.

"They always say you've got to lose one before you win one," he said. "I have had three real close calls. That is more than some have had be-

David Gilford

Turned professional 1986. On the basis of

1986. On the bass of finishing in the top 10 in the European Order of Merit, Sifford was invited to his first Masters last year when he came joint 24th, thus automatically debind reartmission for

gaining readmission f Augusta. Had an out-

winning the English Ama

teur Championship in 1984 and the British Youths' Championship in 1986. A member of

Ryder Cup team at Oak Hill, Rochester, last Sep tember, One of the

quietast players in golf, Gilford's hobby is tending a herd of Hereford cattle. Now has 40 arims!s but says that, because of the worles over BSE, they are uthurity worth.

Born: Crewe

cause of his results in four pre- ers' Championship two weeks fore they have won. In major championships it is limiting the mistakes that counts. At Riviera I managed to birdie the last three holes to get into that play-off, and that's what I was able to take as a positive from

> It is Monty's conviction that he is best suited to the US Open and USPGA, but that does not stop him denouncing suggestions, even if they were uttered by himself in the past, that he does not have the game for Augusta. His left-to-right fade should not suit the many boles that dogleg from right to

that.

That's pure myth. There is Only one shot you need to book or draw and that's on the 13th. The rest of them, a straight shot is fine. One hole in particular suits my game and that is 18. I can close my eyes and hit it on the fairway there.

"This course is a matter of

we go? Where don't we go? When do we go for it? It's up to myself and my caddie to work it out. We know what to do now. It's just whether we are able to do that under the pressure and I think we are better equipped than ever before. I am fortunate in that I tend to play better when there is a hit of pressure."

One man who believes the

2-year-old Scot can win is Ely Callaway, whose clubs Montgomerie is hitting further and higher than at any other time. "He sent me a letter congratulating me on my second at the Players and the PS said you can win at Augusta. The can was underlined. That meant a lot to me.

It is just another factor in making Montgomerie "as confident as I have ever been". The only time he stumbled yesterday was when asked whether be had dreamed of donning a Green Jacket. Pause. Then: "Doesn't every golfer think of holding the Open claret jug or putting on a Green Jacket?" Few have as good a chance of playing chess, working out your course management. Where do gomerie.

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Redgrave to retire after Atlanta MIKE ROWBOTTOM

lan Baker-Finch

Age: 35

Born: Nambour, Aus

Turned professional 1979. Baker-Finch won the Open Championship at Royal Birkdale in 1991 since

Birkdale in 1991 since when the only cut he has made has been while shaving. Actually, that's not true. In the Canon challenge in Australia this year Baker-Finch got beyond the second round for the first time in 17 months, surprising everybody including himself. Conditioned to checking out of hotels on a Finday

out of hotels on a Finday night. Bater-Finch did not have enough shirts to see him through to Sonday. Although he had no chance of winning the tournament, the crowd socked to him.

are crown access to name during the final round and gave him a standing overtion. Resurred normal service on the US four this season; played three, missed cuts three.

Steven Redgrave plans to end his career after competing for an unprecedented fourth Olympic rowing title in Atlanta this

Speaking at the launch of a Barclaycard Visa scheme to provide £500,000 worth of training camp support for Britain's Olympic and Paralympic athletes, the 34-year-old oarsman said: "I plan to retire after the

Olympics. I've been rowing now for 20 years. I am training hard, and if things go as planned in Atlanta I will be more than happy to walk away from the competitive side of the sport. "I will probably get involved in coaching at some stage but not straight away. If you are coaching athletes and the thought is there that you could

probably still beat them yourself o is not a good position to be in." Matthew Pinsent, with whom Redgrave will attempt to retain the coxless pairs title they won

in Barcelona, plans to carry on after Atlanta. "I am about as sure that I want to carry on as Steve is sure that he wants to tetire," he said. As they prepare for the international season. Redgrave and Pinsent have swapped places, with Redgrave taking over the bow. It thus falls to the 25-year-old Pinsent to do the talking in the boat from the more demanding position at stern - something with which he is not completely at ease. "I'm so out of breath now I can't say anything," he said.

SPORTS LETTERS WILL APPEAR IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT

Davis Love III. His Ist win at the Vth attempt: XVI/I. TO WIN THE US MASTERS F. Couples 14/1 14/1 16/1 16/1 C. Montgomerie 33/1 J. Haas G. Norman 33/1 S. Hoch 33/1 L. Janzen D. Love III 33/1 B. Langer M. O'Meara 16/1 33/1 16/1 N. Price 33/1 L. Roberts N. Faldo V. Singh M. Calcavecchia 33/1 S. Elkington 40/1 T. Lehman 40/1 D. Frost P. Mickelson 40/1 J. Furyk 20/1 I. Woosnam 40/1 P. Stewart E/W one-quarter the odds a place 1,2,3,4. Other prices on rec '95 US Open C. Pavin (16/1) J. Daly (33/1) D. Love III /16/11 C. Rocca (150/1) Dual Forecast odds **Dual Forecast odds** 125/1 2.000/1 FOR INSTANT BETTING, FREEPHONE 0800 524 524 Ladbrokes

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23

For a flutter, Ladbrokes are favourite.

Most of the time footballers sleep late and get home early. Those with big names are paid more than some people who run countries

hardly to be compared with coal miners, firefighters and oil riggers - no matter what you hear from their union. It's a short career but show me a manual worker who wouldn't swap places. It's a damned sight better than working on a hospital ward or an assembly line. There are perils for sure, but boxers would laugh

You can't beat the hours. Most of the time footballers sleep late and get home early. Those with a hig name in the Premiership are paid more than some people get for running countries. They don't have to worry about the mortgage, health care, the gas hill or how their children will be educated. They still come from working-class back-

grounds but it isn't long before they spection of their lifestyle led us to are voting with their wallets. Pandered to by the game's middle-class following, glorified in print and across the airwaves, they lose touch with reality.

Now comes a survey to suggest that foothallers do not suffer much stress either. It was conducted by a psychology lecturer, Dr Howard Khan of Herint-Watt University. Edinburgh, who interviewed 512 players and 10 managers in the Scottish Premier and First

"We thought we'd find that foolballers have an extremely hard life," he said this week in the Daily Telegraph. "Pressure from the crowds and referees. TV cameras on them all the time, and the general in-

expect that they suffered enormous levels of stress. But that wasn't the case,"

To discover that the stress experienced by footballers is minimal compared with other trades and professions in Britain comes as no surprise personally. As Dr Khan concludes, fontball managers take most of the strain. "It is why several have had heart attacks in the past two years," he added. "The players are so laid back they are almost falling over. There's not enough pressure on them to do a decent

With players in the Premiership earning upwards of £5,000 a week, in some cases four times as much. it isn't a union they need hat Sc-



curicor. "What stress?" a managor said recently. "If anyone is going to be made a scapegoat here it's me." And that is a petrified

Despair in a footballer is ephemeral. Another week, another game. If necessary, another club. If you are half-way decent there is always one out there.

Stress is the dole queue, a cardboard box for a bed, negative equity, abandonment, redundancy. It isn't missing a goal, mistiming a pass, getting dropped or even playing in a team threatened by relegation. As the Leeds manager, Howard Wilkinson, discovered a few weeks ago, some players cannot even be relied upon to give of their best in a cup

Nn more justifiable cause has heen taken up in sport than that which 35 years ago liberated professional footballers in England from a maximum wage and the iniquitous retain and transfer

One of the great figures remembered from that time was Nal Lofthouse, a successfully vigorous Bolton and England centre-forward whn became his club's

An interview with Lofthouse in Arthur Hnpcraft's splendid book. The Football Man, published in 1968, serves to emphasise the change in attitude brought about by the effects of affluence and a different audience.

"Lofthouse ... caught the essential gratitude and surprise of the working man that worldly comfort can he his without the drudgery of manual labour." Hopcraft wrote.

It is one of the key factors in the

one memorable early morning in Bolton: 'The team was going to South Africa for nine weeks. I'd left my hnuse at half past seveo to be picked up by the coach at the bottom of the road. There's a works down there and the men were rolling in. Half past seven, that was, and I was there with my cases going to South Africa for nine weeks, all paid with £2 a day spending mnney.' Loftbouse ennyeyed a sense of victory, not just pleasure. when he said that."

What bothered me all those years ago was that too many players went along with the game's feudalism. Now it is that agent-inspired market which came about was not a labour triumph anyway.

Jackson to reconsider boycott

Athletics

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Colin Jackson hinted yesterday that he might relent in his determination to hoycott all British Athletic Federation events other than the Olympic trials this season.

The world 110 metres hurdles record holder said he was ready to discuss his position with members of the BAF promotions unit when he returns from a racing trip to South Africa

next week. However, be refused to countenance the idea of talking to the BAF executive chairman, Peter Radford, whose reprimand after he had raced in Italy a day after pulling out of last season's AAA Championships with injury prompted Jackson's original decision to do his racng abroad.

Since then, Jackson has trained and raced extensively in Australia, and he believes the break has done him good. "Things look more promising," he said. "I've calmed down a lot in myself. I realise that the BAF promotions unit work

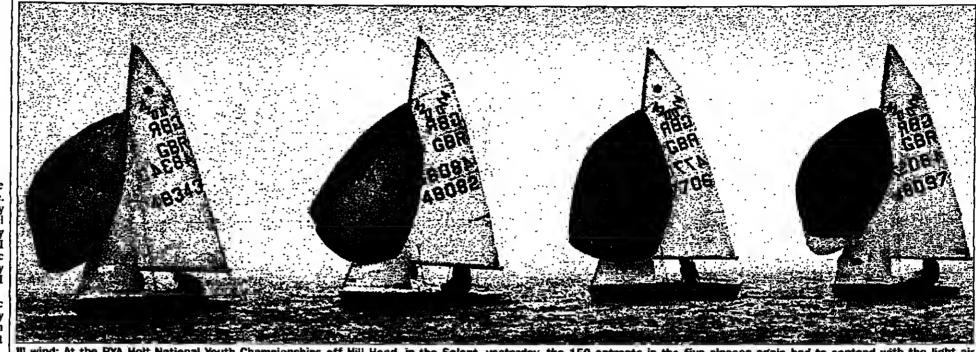
hard and that I am one of the athletes they want to promote. I'm ready to see what they want to do and whether I feel I am ready lo act on it. If they can understand the problems I went through last year that is the key thing for me. It certainly woo't be down to money if I don't run.

"I realise that a lot of people would like to see me run. My mum and my Nan have been on at me about il as well since I got

But Jackson's feelings about the dispute with his home federation still run deep. "What happened last year left me very disappointed. I've always been the good boy of athletics, if you like. I am just the same person I was in 1988, but when someone walks into the Federation and walks all over you... I had many other things on my mind at the time, I was injured and I wasn't

well, and it all came to a head." Asked if he would meet Radford now to discuss the situation, his response was vehements. "Hell, no. No way. We'd better bypass this now because I'm getting vengeance in my heart

Weather works against youthful enterprise in national championships



Ill wind: At the RYA Holt National Youth Championships off Hill Head, in the Solent, yesterday, the 150 entrants in the five classes again had to contend with the light air that caused all Tuesday's races to be lost. The 420 fleet (above) features Sally Cuthbert, three times a World Championship gold medallist.

Photograph: David Ashdown

Partick refuse to offer refunds after lights go out at Firhill

Football

Partick Thistle vesterday insisted that they will not offer refunds to spectators following the abandonment of Tuesday's Scottish Premier Division game against Aberdeen.

The match was called off after 39 minutes because of floodlight failure, with sup- game only. porters given vouchers for free

entry when the match is re- the next 48 hours whether to discussing the matter, we can't played on Tuesday 16 April.

Reid, said: "There will be no cash refunds, nor will the vouchers be available for any other and now face another long trek game. Our only other home game left this season is against Celtic and that is an all-ticket match, so those vouchers will admit supporters to Tuesday's

Aherdeen will decide over directors can get round to pay out for Thistle's blunder,"

subsidise supporters travelling The Thistle secretary, Robert back to Glasgow. Their fans eid, said: "There will be no sh refunds, nor will the vouch-

on Tuesday. Aberdeen's general manager, David Johnston, said: "We will have a look at helping out our supporters, something we did last year but, until the comment.

However, Roddie Arnott. the chairman of the Aberdeen Supporters' Association, be-lieves that, if fans are to be rec-ompensed for their travel, Thistle should be the club to do it. "I would prefer to see Partick pay for the Aberdeen supporters' buses because I don't see why Aberdeen should have to

he said. The match referee, Bill Crombie, abandoned Thesday's game six minutes before the interval, with Thistle's Firbill

Park stadium in semi-darkness. The Partick manager, Mur-do MacLeod, said: "The problem occurred in mid-afternoon and the electricians were called in. We were told before the game began that it was likely to be repaired and the referee instructed that the floodlights be

switched on as soon as possible. But each time we tried they went back out."

The game was goalless when Crombie finally called a halt, al-though Partick, who remain desperate for points in their attempt to escape relegation, had been frustrated when the Aberdeen goalkeeper, Michael Watt, saved Ian Cameron's penalty after Derek McWilliams was pulled down.

Richmond money talks Cooper engineers Township start for Lions

Rugby Union STEVE BALE

Richmond, the hallowed London club who by their own admission have been too long asleep, vesterday roused themselves sufficiently to sign two Weish half-backs for next season and set a monetary benchmark for others tempted to join professional rugby union's nascent transfer system. They expect the Bath and England forward Ben Clarke to be next.

Neither Adrian Davies nor Andy Moore, who faced each other in the 1990 University match for Cambridge and Oxford respectively, is currently Wales' first choice. But they are Cardiff's - Davies to the frustration of the reluctant centre Jonathan Davies and together represent a significant first stage in the rebuilding of Richmond. The connection was made by Davies's younger brother Lloyd, who is already at the club.

Don't like to

The 27-year-old half-backs' departure from the most presti-

gious Welsh club to a member of the Courage Third Division sends a devastating message that the financial incentives on offer in England cannot be matched in Wales. Already Neath's Llewellyn hrothers have signed for London clubs, Gareth for Harlequins and Glyn for Wasps.

Davies and Moore have each agreed five-year contracts with Richmond worth up to an annual £60,000 to become fulltime rugby players. Davies will cease to be a surveyor and Moore to he involved in the family building company. Richmond's chief executive.

Symon Elliott, said his recruitment programme would add a director of rugby and at least half n dozen players to the squad who had already assured the club of promotion. Richmond are second in the Third Division behind Coventry, with the top four going up to create a 14-club Second Division.

Though Moore has four caps and Davies nine, they have once - the World Cup game

against Japan last May. In fact, Davies has soldom fulfilled himself internationally and Moore this season lost his scrum-half place to the exceptional Robert Howley.

With European rugby going through enormous change, I want to be part of a club that has a strong tradition but sees professionalism as a real opportunity for the game," Moore said. The curious thing was be was not talking about Cardiff. Cardiff have tried to per-

suade them to stay, but the club even though they bave the Welsh Rugby Union's permission to become a limited company - have nothing like the cash that is available to Richmond Ltd, which has inserted contractual clauses releasing both players for Wales duties. They do not expect to be the

last émigrés. "Cardiff should in theory he able to attract and keep the best players around."

Davies said. "But potentially there are a number of players played together for Wales only in Wales who could well be thinking of moving elsewhere."

Otago comeback

SPORTING DIGEST

Otago Highlanders

The Otago Highlanders staged a tremendous finale to win their Super-12 game against South Africa's Natal in a thrilling game at Dunedin, New Zealand, yesterday. Down 24-13 at half-time and

then 32-13 after Natal's James Small landed a drop goal and scored a try, Otago's full-back Matthew Cooper sparked a magnificent comeback for the Highlanders with a converted try. Soon after John Leslic, the

captain, charged down a clearing kick and chased successfully for another converted try. Cooper closed the gap to 32-30 with a timely penalty.

Otago were then rewarded with a penalty when a touch judge spotted a midfield back being hauled away without the ball and Cooper stroked the ball over to give his side victory.

Wilson had opened the scoring with a try for the High-landers. Natal flanker Wickus van Heerden went in for a converted try. Wilson put the Otago side back in the lead 8-7 with a penalty goal, and winger Brian Lima raced off for

a try. The Natal centre Jeremy Thomson and Joubert crossed in quick succession, one of the tries converted by Henry Honiball and Natal shot ahead 19-13. . Joubert went through for his second try befire half-time. Small landed his drop goal and

then finished a fine back-line then brished a line hack-line movement for his try.

Otago: Tries Wilson, Lma, Cooper, Lesley, Penalties Wilson, Cooper 2; Conversions Cooper 2. Natal: Tries Joubert 2, Thomson, Yan Heerden, Smell; Conversions Honiball 2; Drop goal Smell.

Otago Highlanders: J Wilson; G Lesupepe, T Brown, B Lma, J Lesle (capt); S Bachop, S Forster; T Randel, P Henderson, L Falanko, A Roin, J Cuffen, M Driver, A Other, R Lewon.

Natal: A Loubert: C year der Westhussen, J

Natal: A Joubert C ven der Westhusen, J Thomson, J Smell D Mult: H Honiball K Putt: G felchmarn toarti, W Fyvis, W van Heer-den, S Atherton, M Andrews, A Ganey, J Al-tan, A Le Roux,

The Lions will play in a South Transvaal, North Transvaal and wickshire side that includes

time since apartheid was abol- up to the Test matches. ished when their 13-match tour of the Republic begins on 24 May next year in Korsten, out-side Port Elizabeth.

It will be the first Lions visit to South Africa since 1980 and follows the recent pattern of Lions' trips to Australia and New Zealand, with the three Tests being crammed into the final weeks of the tour.

The Lions agreed to one match on their fixture list being in a township to assist the growth of the game there. A South African Rugby Football Union official said: "Sarfu re-main committed to a vision of rugby becoming a truly national sport, representing the whole country. For this reason we are ular survivor of the professionpleased that the Lions will visit a disadvantaged area in a sub-

urb of Port Elizabeth." The Lions will encounter South Africa's leading regional sides during their six-week spell in the Republic - Western Province, Orange Free State, tershire will take on a War-

African township for the first Natal - in a demanding huild-

The games against Western Province and Transvaal are in midweek, which means there member of last season's title-win-Province and Transvaal are in will be little opportunity during the early stages of the trip to split the squad into a Test side and a second team. The Lions start at sea level,

at Port Elizabeth, before going to the 6,000ft altitude of Johannesburg and Pretoria for the second phase of the tour at the start of June. They then return to the coast for the first Test in Cape Town and the second Test in Durban. The final Test is back at altitude in the World Cup final stadium at Ellis Park, Johannesburg, on 5 July.

While Lions tours are a popal era, far less welcome, to the clubs at least, would be the continuation of the County Championship. The final of this season's CIS-sponsored version goes ahead at Twickenham on Saturday week, when Glouces-

Karl Fairbank's Wembley place is in the balance today when he faces a disciplinary hearing after being sent off for a high tackle. The former Great Britain forward was dismissed in Bradford's match at Sheffield on Good Friday and a suspension of more than two matches will rule him out of the Chaffenga Cup final against St Helens on 27 April. As Fairbank is now 32, this could be his last chance of plasma in a final

his last chance of playing in a final.

Trevor Revan, who was ordered off during a league match agains1 Fylde last weekend.

ning team, was dismissed for alleged punching, hut Harry Walker, Warwickshire's match secretary, said: "Trevor can play until he comes before the county disciplinary committee, which has a backlog of cases to consider. So it seems unlikely that he would appear [before them] until after the final. Even if Rugby Lions imposed a club suspension - and I reckon that is improba-hle - then it would not affect his

availability for the county." Revan will train with the squad on Sunday and Warwickshire will announce their team the following morning. LEATH LIFE TO LIOWING MOTHING.

LIONS TOUR TO SOUTH AFRICA (24 May-5Joly 1997): 24 May v Eastern Frownce Invattion XV. Adoock Stadium, Port Elzaberti, 28 v
Western Province, Cape Town; 31 v. Fries State,
Bloemfortlein; 4 June v Transvaal, Johannesburg 7 v Northem Transvaal, Persons; 11 v South
Eastern Transvaal, Witbank: 14 v Natial, Durban;
17 v Emerging Springholes, Wellingon; 21 v
SOUTH AFRICA, Cape Town; 24 v Border, East
London; 28 v SOUTH AFRICA, Durban; 1 July
v SA Barbanans, Welkom; 5 v SOUTH AFRICA,
Johannesburg.

British coach is critical of refereeing

ice hockey

Latvia

Peter Woods, the Great Britain coach, was not a happy man after his side's 6-5 defeat to Latvia in their opening World Championship Pool B game in Eindhoven, the Netherlands,

vesterday. Britain lost to a goal scored midway through the final period by Alexander Belavskis, who struck for Latvia while their opponents were a man short. The refereeing was a bit onesided and the penalty which led to their winning goal was some-thing of a mystery call," Woods haid. We had nine penalties [against us] while they had only two, and the refereeing was a

major factor in the game. Britain's next game in the tournament is against Switzer-

Calzaghe and Delaney test television market

Boxing

Barry Hearn yesterday implored terrestrial television to step up its boxing coverage, with the warning: "If the young fighters don't get terrestrial exposure to a wide audience, boxing is doomed."

Hearn believes that the Joe

Calzaghe-Mark Delaney British super-middleweight title fight at the Brentwood International Centre oo 20 April is the type of good quality attraction to bring major boxing back to terrestri- count in his favour. "If it gets to al television. ITV recently its intention to show only the "blockbusting" fights, but they will show the bout of the big 12st punchers, although it will be

after the evening's film. "It's fights like this which are one getting the attention." the meaningful matches, which excite people, and may convince to move him into a world title pothe powers that be at ITV to the powers that be at 11 V to short which a year, while Carration stick with boxing," the proper ghe's co-managers, Mickey Duff moter said. "Here you have two and Terry Lawless, are looking young fighters aiming for the ahead to a European title bout.

screened late and delayed until

stars, both carrying punching power, both undefeated, both of whom are very marketable. We like Saturday night fights, and we want them live."

Calzaghe has nine first-round stoppages in a perfect 16-fight record, while Delaney is unbeaten in 21 bouts, with 13 wins inside the first three rounds. Delaney thinks the fact that he

has been the 12-round distance in three of his last four contests, all World Boxing Organisation Inter-Continental title fights wil nine or 10 rounds, I'll know changed its stance and declared what it's like, what to expect. Joe has been eight rounds once," said Delaney, 25, from West Ham. "Joe came into professional boxing as a star, a triple ABA champion, so he got the attention. When I take his title, I'll be the

If Delaney wins, Hearn plans

sition within a year, while Calza-

BASS-POTATE
AMERICAN LEAGUE: Bosson 9 Mirmesota 1:
New York Yarkees 7 Kureas Cny 3; Toronto 5
California C; Debott 10 Sestile 9; Texas 3 Chusago White Sax 2: Minaches 10 Cadiand A. Post-ponedt Battimore v Cleveland.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: New York Mets 12 Chomned 5; San Francisco 3 Houston 1 (10 ánánga);
Alisaria 3 Los Angeles 1; Fornia 5 San Diego
2 (10 ánánga).

Basketball NBA: New Jersey 94 Detroit 111: New York 97 Boston 93: Denver 98 LA Lakers 91: Houston 90 Vancouver 84; Milwaukee 96 Toronto 102: Propins 91 Portland 98; Sacramento 95 Dal-

Surrey, who were thwarted in their re-cent attempt to recruit the South Africa all-rounder, Brian McMillan, have signed Australian fast bowler Brendon Julian. Julian will take over from fellow pace-man Waqar Younis, who will be tour-ing England with Pakistan this summer, as The Ovel club's overseas player. as the over the school school prayer. TOUR MATCH (Ringstown, St Vincent; final day of three): New Zealand 318 for 9 dec (S P Figurer 55, AC Parce 55, N I Asse 55) and 204 dec (C Mans 55-no); West Indee Board XI 158 (S Compbell 79, Cams 5-29).

WALES SQUAD (international triently v Selectional, Logano, 24 April; Marriott Michaell, Copes (Farmere), Jenkins (Fudiesfield), Symos (Marchesfer Cty), Coleman (Etackturi), Page (Matterd), Bowen (Marchesfield), Medically, Boss (Morach), Jones (Watheld), Speed (Leafs), Legg (Brimington), Robertson (Charton), Hartson (Arsena), Semiders (Galatzsary), Blake (Bohan), Taylor (Sheffield Util).

senzill, Lennom (Leicester), Lomas (Manchester City), Gillespie (Newcastler), O'Neill (Hobertan), Magitton (Southernount), Hughes (Mat Ham), Quian (Backpoo), McKalahon (Tottenham), O'Boyle (St Johnstone). Bebeto is included as one of three over-age players in the Brazil Olympic team who are to play a friendly against South Africa in Johannesburg on 24 April. The decision is certain to disappoint the World Cup hero Romario who very much

World Cup hero Romario who very much warted a place in the squad. BRAZE, OMMPIC SQUAD (triendly v South Africa, Johannestung, 24 Aprill: Genikeepers: Didn (Crusino), Ragerio (Sao Paulo); Defenders: Ze Maria Pottuguess), Andre Lais (Sao Paulo); Ze Roberto (Poruguess), Andre Lais (Sao Paulo); Ze Roberto (Poruguess), Aldalir (Borria), Carlinhos (Guarra), Alexandre Lopes (Corrithers), Rosaldo Galaro (Miseco) Mineso); Midfieldes: Flovie Corocicae (Palmeras), Assarda (Palmeras), Ze Elies (Corrithers), Emercoo (Germo, Rivate) Palmeras, Jameli (Santos); Forwards: Bebeto (Deportuo Corun), Savio (Palmeras), Listano (Polmeras), Listano (Polmeras), Listano (Polmeras), Listano (Polmeras), Listano (Polmeras), Carlon Four Listano (Polmeras), Carlon Four Universidad Catolica (Chiel 2 Botalego (Br) 1. Group Floer: Universidad Catolica (Chiel 2 Botalego (Br) 1. Group Floer: San Lose (Br) 4 Minerven (Ven) O.

Group Piece Son Lorento (virg 4 Minerven (ven) 0.

TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Endeledin Insurance League First Division: Leocaise 1 West Brom 2; Luton 1 Soute 2. Second Division: Bournemouth 3 Searces 1: Brighton 1 Burnley 0; Notts County 4 Britts (Rows 2. Strongley 0; Notts County 4 Britts (Rows 2. Strongley 0; Notts County 4 Britts (Rows 2. Strongley 0; Notts County 6 Britts (Rows 3) min: foodight faiture). Scorborough 0 Bury 2. Bed'is Sectitish Lasgue Premier Division: Cursonal 1 Britts (Rows 2. Britts Division: Carack Rangers 1 Lame 0. Left League Premier Division: Cursonal 1 Lame 0. Left League Premier Division: Constant 1 Lame 0. Left League Premier Division: Constant 0 Ware 2. Benzer Homes League Southern Division: Corney League First Division: Hostonal Miner Farm 0. Paulint 5 Westbury 2 Dinner of Languasteid 4. North WestCounties League First Division: League Premier Division: League Premier Division: Corner Milita League First Division: League Premier Division: Corner League Premier Division: Corner League Premier Division: Corner Divisio

The second secon

express Micland Allianner: West Miclands Po-lice 3 Sandwell Borough 3. Peralins League First Divisions Derby 3 Brimingham 1; Leeds 1 Wolves C. Liverpool 1 Nottingham Forest C. Sheffield Wednesday 3 Tranners 4. Second Divisions Brimishy 0 Robinsham 1; Mansheld 0 Coverity 3; Sunderland 0 Half City 0. Avon binestrates Combination First Division: Assensi 2 Norsch Charles Mithester 1 Mithell 1 Character 3: Sunderland O Hall City D. Awon braustance Combination First Division: Assessal 2 Nonschildry, Cr. Cherkon Athleto: 1 Milwell 1; Queen's Peak, Rangers 2 Crystal Palace O, Second Divisions: Cardiff City 1 Newport AFC 1. FA Youth Cap Send-final final lark lags West Ham 2 Winnishedon 1 tett 5,179). French Leegue: Auserne 2 (Bione pen 6, Martins 47) Bordeau, C. Le Fawn O Guesgron 2 Lusretti 53, Brunel 54); Martigues 1 (Mazzonomi 15) Lille D; Mortipeliter 1 (Robert 70) Nants C; Nico 1 (Checuth 90) Para Si-Germain 2 (Djorlaeff 64, Le Guen 89); Rennes 3 (Wiltord 8, 29), Gross 59) St. Denner O; Strasburg 1 (Gohel 60) Cannes O. Laading poetions: 1 Auserne 744, Pre641; 2 Para SS (34-63); 3 Leris (34-50), Germain League: Schalle 1 (Magner 89) Bayer Levelusen 1 (Mrasen 6); Karlsmith 1 (Bender 33) 1860 Munici 1 (Heldt 49); Entstack (Fankhut 2 (Destrim 27, Ocothe 42) Wis Sudiger 2 (Hebre 2, Grewott 5); Cologne 0 Bousses Dortmund O; Hans Rostock 1 (Berlich pen 46) Uerding no Laading poetitions: 1 Dortmund (P26, Pre53); 2 Beyern Munich (26-53); 3 Mönchengadbach (25-44).

ice hockey NETL: Caigary 3 Dalles 4 (ot).

Pools dividends VERNOVS: Trails chance: 18pts £1.33.75. Ten homes £6.20. Five aways £1.20. LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 18pts £278.40, 18pts £2.15. Four draws (and on 3 draws) £79.05. 10 homes £4.95. Five Burry's £30.30.

EMPS 2.50.30. Top 10 points pool: 14pts £29.30. Top 10 points pool: 14pts £223.95; 13pts £37.30. Four draws (paid on three correct) £1.32.00. Eight homes £1.00. Four aways: £2.90. Easy stic £76. Lucky numbers 30 26 23 35 24 21. BRITTENS: Treble chance: 18pts £14.50. Four draws (pad on three cornel) £47.20. Bight homes £3.80. Five aways £6.20.

Rugby Union SUPER-12 (Caristrook): The Otago High-landers 33 Natal 32. Apts for victory, 2 for draw, 1 for loss by 7pts or less, bonus point awarded for scoring 4 or more tries in a match.

Britan's Andy Beadsworth, with crew Barry Parkin and Adrian Stead, was hold-ing sixth place after three races in San Remo to find 13 qualifiers from Europe Remo to find 13 qualifiers from Europe for the three-man Soling class in the Olympic Games. After four reces on Lake Garda Glyn Charles and George Skoudas, winner's of Britain's Star class trails in Miami, were 16th out of 19 in European qualifiers for 15 places. With six races to go they were confident of making the cut. Further qualifiers for the women's 470 and Europe

singlehander and the men's Laser singlehander begin this weekend in Mur-

o-z: L Nestand (Lat) bt A Fusa (Fn 7-5.6-1. Sec and round: C Martinez (Spi th A Terresson (Hun 6-1.6-3: B Scheri, (Auril th M Makessa (Bul) 6-1. 6-3; C Rubin (US) bt C Crisses (Romi 6-1.6-4; M Piorce (Fn bt S F4toers)) (Fn 6-3.4-6.6-3; I Spiries (Rom) bt P Hy-Boulosi (Can 6-3.6-5; A Likier (US) bt L Retiterpus (Cz Rop) 4-6.6-0 7-5; J Husarova (Stovak) bt N Medivedera (Ukr) 6-4.7-6.

IN SEARCH OF MASTERY

Tim Glover on prospects for the US Masters

Clubs on brink of break with RFU

Rugby Union

STEVE BALE

Every bit as intransigent as the Rugby Football Union, England's major clubs are prepar-ing to make the fateful decision to secede from their governing body. Relationships have broken down so completely that it would be no surprise if today's emergency board meeting in the City of London of their umbrella grouping, English Professional Rugby Union Clubs, came to this momentous conclusion.

The only hope then would be for the RFU president, Bill Bishop, notably absent from Tues-day's watershed Twickenham press briefing, to step in as a last-ditch mediator during the 24 days that would remain until the end of the season and EPRUC's departure became official.

Bishop, considerably more conciliatory than Cliff Brittle, the RFU executive chairman who has been leading the union's negotiating team, does not care to be remembered as the president under whose stewardship English rugby had a second great schism to follow that of rugby league 101 years ago.

On Tuesday the RFU announced its willingness to negotiate on a number of subsidiary matters but not the substantive ones concerning the administration of the professional club game, which begins with the end of the RFU moratorium on 6 May, and its financial aspects.

The clubs want - perhaps demand would be a better word - autonomous control of both but the RFU has declared them to be non-negotiable and is in effect challenging EPRUC, which represents the 20 clubs who make up the present First and Second Divisions, to do its worst. This is now likely. Feople are incensed," Donald Kerr onship, I know that divisional of Harlequins, EPRUC's chief rugby has been a failure," John

executive, said yesterday. union, however. Brittle is trying to drive a wedge between the First Division clubs, who together hold a 76 per cent stake in EPRUC, and the Second Division, and it is by no means certain that all the clubs involved, including some in the First Division, will readily agree to the

imminent schism. Yesterday the RFU received support from Richmond, who already know they will be among the four clubs promoted from the Third Division – and so admitted to EPRUC. "As a founding club, Richmond supports the RFU in its role as controller of the game in England," Symon Elliott, the chief executive, said.

Since Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, is a former Rich-mond captain and chairman, it would have been peculiar had Elliott said otherwise, but his remarks were of special interest as Richmond are following the professional path as aggressively as anyone after the injection of £2.5m from a businessman. Yesterday they announced the signing of Adrian Davies and Andy Moore, the Cardiff half-backs.

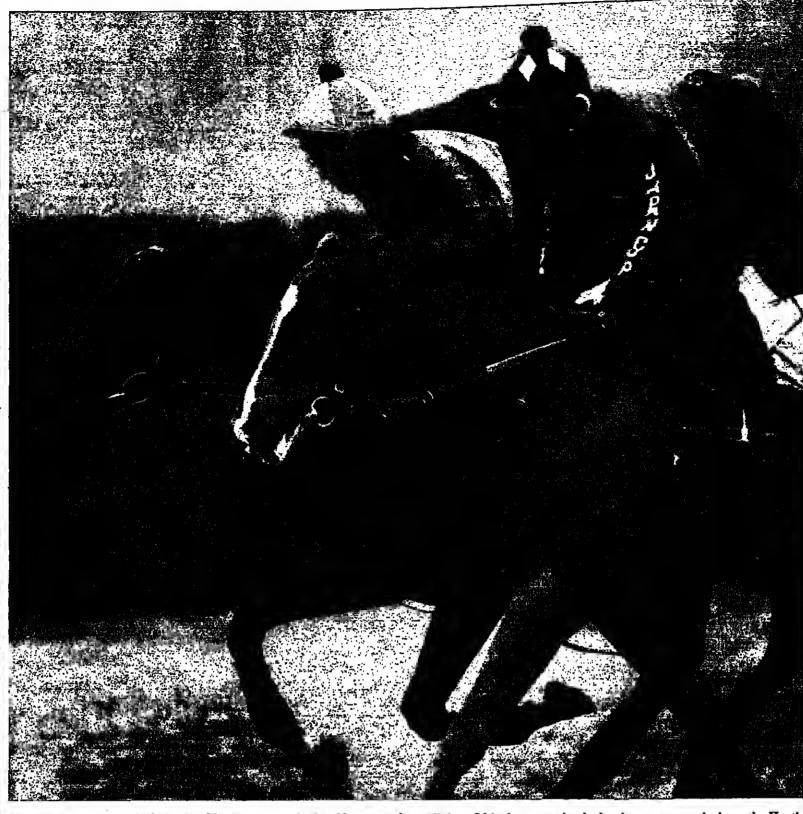
Hallett is still trying to be op-timistic, "There will be a bust-up but I don't believe it will become a breakaway," he said yesterday. However, the clubs have said all along - in direct contradiction of the RFU's insistence that broadcasters would deal only with Twickenham - that they have television and sponsorship deals in place to underwrite their own

rebel competitions.

Meanwhile the RFU's insistence that divisional rugby continue as an essential part of producing a successful England team - but thereby removing club rugby from the programme for a financially critical period in autumn - is another apparent-ly irreconcilable cause of division.

"Having played in divisional games and ca tal the South-west to a divisional champi-Hall, Bath's rugby director, said It is not all gloom for the after a meeting of the club's management board. "Top-flight rugby is the answer, not divisions. Richmond money talks, page 27

Piggott reluctant to let go of the reins



Some things on Newmarket's timeless Heath nevmay come and go, but yesterday morning the enduring modern symbol of the world's most fahis blood, and the old maestro is now happy to turn the clock back nearly half a cen- in the 1954 Derby. tury to when he was an anonymous schoolboy riding exercise.

Yesterday morning Piggott (pictured above, However, Piggott still lives in Newmarket and this

on the far side) was on board Prince Of Andros, er change, writes Sue Montgomery. Derby fancies trained at Sefton Lodge by David Loder. Piggott, though still lean and spare, is more relaxed than he has ever been, and is content to pass on his mous race, Lester Piggott, was out at dawn doing unsurpassed knowledge to one of the emerging what he does best. Piggott, aged 60, may have talents of the racing industry. Loder, aged 32, was retired from competitive race-riding, but hors- born a decade before Piggott first rode to fame with his first Classic victory on Never Say Die

> Piggott last rode competitively in Britain in 1994 and his wife, Susan, has now given up training.

spring he has been seen regularly on the Heath

riding out for Loder.

This is always an important time of the year for the leading trainers on the Flat. The season's first three Classics all take place within the next two months and nearly all the leading contenders will be showing their paces in the coming weeks. Many will be on public view for the first time this season at Newmarket's Craven meeting next week, as will the country's leading jockeys. The most

famous of them all, however, will not be seen. Photograph: Robert Hallam; Racing, page 25

Northern Ireland, who face Sweden in Belfast on the same

night, have rested their former

captain. Alan McDonald of

Queen's Park Rangers.
Plymouth Argyle and Ply-

mouth City Council are to un-veil plans for a new £25m

stadium today. The 23,000 ca-

pacity all-seat construction is to

be built on land near Argyle's

Home Park ground in Central

Park, and will be similar to the

Alfred McAlpine Stadium in

International squads,

Sporting Digest, page 27

Huddersfield.

Olympic warm-up event in jeopardy

Hockey BILL COLWILL reports from Atlanta

A major pre-Olympic tourne-ment involving some of the world's leading hockey nations is under threat because the facilities here are incomplete. With less than 100 days to go to the start of the games, the practice pitches are not ready and the competition pitch is un available - which is an embar rassment for the host city. Great Britain, Pakistaa, In

dia, Argentina and South Ko rea have travelled here to jobs the United States in the prestigious Six Nations Pre-Olympic Tournament, which is scheduled to start today on what is sun posed to be the Olympic prais tice pitch.

The problems started when the two artificial grass pitches being prepared for the Games were found to be unsatisfactory when they were completed last summer, and were due up. There were delays in starting th new construction work and at though the pitch at the 15,000seat Morris Brown Stadium where this week's tournament should have taken place, has been completed, the stadium cannot yet be used by the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games because of contractual difficulties with the constructors.

Furthermore, the main pitch at the Clark Atlanta University Ground, the practice venue, has still not been laid - the siteyesterday resembled a concrete car park. A disappointed and frustrated David Whittle, the British team manager, said. We have come all the way here. for an élite tournament and we need to play quality hockey for our development and selection, purposes, but in no way am I prepared to jeopardise the safety of Olympic athletes without mvolving the players them-selves. We will see what the practice brings forth.

Whittle has tried to persuade the US Field Hockey Associa-tion to switch the event to California, with the participating countries meeting some of the costs. This was ruled out as by ing logistically and financially unacceptable.

Eric Donegani, the Canadian Tournament Director, who first became aware of the problems less than two weeks ago, said: "It is all less than perfect but I'm hoping that we can keep 🎒 the tournament on. A lot of people have come a long way. My aim is to maintain an official

competition." A spokesman for the USFHA, Marc Whitney, said how disappointed it was that Morris Brown was unavailable to test the Olympic facilities. He insisted it was not for lack of effort. It is, however, hard to believe in this city in transition -where helicopters have been hovering low to dry out building sites and where Billy Payne, the chairman of ACOG, claims that 50 years of improvements in public works have been crammed into the space of a couple of years - that greater effort and foresight could not have prevented this unfortunate situation.

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- **ACROSS** Way chief appears to have a
- certain formality (6)
 Parrot-fancier gets second prize (6) 8 Projectile – large one's
- found in sea (9) Expect it's a carol singer (5) 11 British having trouble with
- for group of worthy citi-
- zens? (6, 4) 13 Structure whereby a re-
- 17 Student in Russia is dim (5)

THE FRANKLIN SCRAMBLE

- contract, ordinarily (5)
- gion's developed (8) dent (4-2)
 15 Player can be released from 28 Ceremony associated with
- 19 Philosophical Genevan who'd be bard pressed to arouse us? (8) 22 Bear verbatim interpretation if shortened or cut?
- (10)23 Type of pastry, one used in Florence briefly (4) 25 Play doctor and nurse end-
- security (4) lessly (5)
 12 Flailing weapon accounting 26 Tiara made by skilled man 27 Burlesque in which nudes
 - will perform before Presi-English degree (6) DOWN

Being indiscreet can be effective (7)

- 3 Resistance given belp in attack (4)
- Delicate legwear with very nally (8)
- Term once associated with Democratic party (6) Springtimes such as we had in 1988 and 1992? (4,5) Tunic decoration Ameri-
- cans wear shorter than the British? (7) 8 The most junior of the di-rectors? (4,25) 10 Affected by disease, sub-
- culture maybe needs infusion of oxygen (11) 14 One's under-exploited when Mother's in - pre-
- sumably? (9) 16 Met with aggro organised in advance (8) 18 MC not quite disposed to accept support in form of
- loving hug (7) 20 Side to be led by Essex opener, man's insisting (7) 21 Cleric involved in oblique manoeuvres (6)
- 24 Arrange to have embryo transfer around day one (4)

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Leeds chairman Silver retires

RUPERT METCALF

The possible demise of Leeds United's manager has been dis-tracting football's chattering classes for much of the season. Yesterday, however, it was not Howard Wilkinson who left Elland Road, but the Yorkshire club's chairman, Leslie Silver.

The 71-year-old Silver, after 14 years as chairman, retired from the Leeds board on medical grounds, with the managing director, Bill Fotherby, assuming temporary control. The announcement follows a run of poor results which has caused unrest among supporters, but Silver insisted his decision was made purely for health reasons.

"I am leaving the board al-together because I have been advised by medical experts to slow

down." Silver said. "I had a bit of a heart problem a year or so ago and when I had another check recently I was advised to take things easy." He will retain his majority shareholding in the

club for the time being. Silver joined the board in April 1981 and, after installing Wilkinson as the manager seven years later, was a major force behind the club's progress to the League title in 1992. In recent years, though, success has

been elusive. Down the road at Huddersfield Town, their 25-year-old striker Craig Whitington faces the sack after being found guilty of misconduct yesterday by the Football Association. He has been banned from the game until 1 November after being caught using cannabis twice within 10 months by the FA's

anti-drugs unit.

Whitington claimed he had not knowingly taken the drug on either occasion. The first time, in March 1995, he believed he may have eaten cakes laced with cannabis at a party and then, in January this year, he claimed to have taken the drug unwittingly when smoking strangers' cigarettes at a New Year's Eve party. A Leyton Orient player, Roger Stanislaus, was sacked by his club earlier this season af-

ter testing positive for cocaine. Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, left out four veterans

- Neville Southall, Ian Rush Mark Hughes and David Phillips - when he named his squad for the friendly in Switzer-land on 24 April. Wrexham's Andy Marriott and Tranmere's Danny Coyne will contest Southall's goalkeeping jersey. Ryan Giggs has also been left out due to club commitments.

'Put Botham in charge'

Cricket

Ian Botham should be given to-tal responsibility for knocking the England team back into shape, according to Allan

The former Test batsman believes Botham and Graham Gooch are the best candidates to join Ray Illingworth's panel of selectors, but be said yesterday: "I think the situation we bave got into is farcical. Illy has stood down as supremo, so we need to replace him with someone else. Instead, we are gning back to the nld system of a coach and a chairman of selec-

tors and I think that's wrong.
"One man should be in charge and he shnuld pick the selectors he wants. I would say to Ian Botham 'go and sort it out. We'll pay you to get English cricket right'. "If he cocks up, then you get

ting on the fence."

Botham is one of eight men standing for two vacancies on the selection panel with counues due to vote next week. Test and County Cricket

Board officials have expressed grave doubts over Botham's nomination because of his extensive media commitments, while some people believe that Gooch - another former England captain - would not be able to devote enough time to the job be-cause he is still playing for Essex.

Lamb could not understand wbere the difficulty might lie. "I can't see where there's going to be a problem. These are just the sort of people who should be involved. It's time to get younger

According to Lamb, however, the best substitute is a sortier person to replace Illingworth. "Ian would have to give up his media work to do it, but that wouldn't be a problem if we paid the right

"As it is, David Lloyd faces a mammoth joh as coach and if I was Illy I would stand down altogether if I wasn't allowed to pick my own selectors."

Lamb, meanwhile, has not entirely abandoned hope of playing one more season for Northamp tonshire, but he admitted the odds were "heavily against" that happening because of a forthcoming book and his refusal to have the manuscript vetted by Lords ahead

Lamb is guaranteed one match this summer, however. He will lead an international team against Robin Smith's England XI at Highclere, Hampshire, on 16 July.

Paul Adams, South Africa's exciting spinner, has been invited to turn out for Lamb's side, along will more as ablished in ternationals, like Courtney Walsh and Aravinda de Silva Smith's team is expected to include Mike Atherton, Graeme Hick and Dominic Cork.

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someone else. But it's no use sitmoney for the job," be said. OPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC. I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and provided at Mirror Colour Print, St Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 0800 906609.

